

spastics NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

July, 1970

New Series, Price 6d.

NATION ASKED FOR CASH AND COMPASSION

They will be fleeced in record time for the cause

DEVON farmers Mr. Bill Hill, 39, of Langley Farm, Dunsford, and Mr. John Andrews, 33, of Lower Weddicott Farm, Chagford, will try to shear between 400 and 500 sheep on Saturday, July 11th at Halshanger Farm, Ashburton, Devon, in order to raise money for the Devon and Exeter Spastics Society.

If the two men achieve their target, it will be a record for the highest number of sheep ever sheared in one day in Devon by Devonians.

£500 Hope

The event is being held on the last day of Spastics Week and by inviting members of the public to sponsor them at the rate of 6d per score of sheep sheared, the two men hope to raise £500 towards the £40,000 extension programme which is due to commence next month at Vranth House in Exeter, the Society's main Day Centre in Devon.

Mr. Hill holds the current shearing record by a Devonian at 175 sheep in six hours.

By setting themselves a target of approximately 200-250 sheep in eight to nine hours the two men will be emulating the average working day of a professional Australian shearer. Mr. Hill points out, however, that those men are permanently employed shearing sheep, whereas his own shearing activities are limited to six weeks of the year, and even during that time he may not shear a sheep for 10 days or more.



One of the great little reasons for Spastics Week

A very happy reason, too—photographed laughing in the sunshine at one of The Spastics Society's Schools, and receiving the right care and training needed to reach full potential. Others are not so lucky, and Spastics Week is being held to bring their needs and pro-

blems into national focus. To raise money, too, so that more little children, and more adults, can have their chance in life. Thousands of spastics are still waiting. Every one is a good reason for Spastics Week—remember them when someone asks you to buy a flag.

THE plans are laid; the arrangements are complete—now it is up to the public to support Spastics Week with their cash and their concern for the handicapped. Spastics Week will be held from July 5th to 11th and its vital need has been underlined in a disturbing report on the national neglect of the severely handicapped. The report, entitled "Time for Compassion", is issued by the Society as a background to the Week, and it identifies 10 crucial areas which require immediate attention by the Government and Local Authorities.

"Time for Compassion", which is edited by the Director of the Society, Mr. James Loring, demands more pre-school and Day Care facilities for spastic children, especially necessary if they suffer the double burden of mental as well as physical handicap. It calls for a special family allowance for parents of severely handicapped children, and pleads for community support and understanding of their unique problems.

More research

More basic research, better ante-natal care and management of the newborn, and an immediate review of the tax structure as it affects charities are also sought in the hard-hitting report.

The Society hopes that the nation will pause during Spastics Week to think about their unfortunate fellow citizens who suffer what the Chairman of The Spastics Society describes in an article on Page 7 as "one of life's most cruel afflictions" and that they will give generously.

Their opportunity to support the work of the Society and its 173 Local Groups will come at the hundreds of fund-raising events at cities, towns and villages throughout the country. Everything from flag days to fetes... sponsored walks to sponsored sheep shearing. It's all happening!

Spastics Games

One of the major national events will be The Spastics Games at Stoke Mandeville Stadium on July 4th and 5th. Mr. Edward Heath, the new Prime Minister, was to have presented awards at the Games, but because of long-standing Prime Ministerial appointments he cannot be present. But Sir Keith Joseph, the new Secretary of State for Social Services, will be at the Games on Sunday morning to see events and demonstrations, and distribute prizes.

Over 240 spastic athletes, ranging in age from eight to 63, will be taking part after winning through the five Regional Games held at Norwich, Lancaster, Mansfield, Tonbridge, and Taunton.

Another excitement at the

Elise is the new Charity Princess



ANOTHER big achievement for spastics, announced just as we go to press, is the award of the National Charity Princess title to Miss Elise McCormack, an administrative assistant for The Stars Organisation for Spastics. Congratulations, Elise, on your wonderful effort in raising £6,546 for the S.O.S. Elise was also runner-up to the new Charity Queen, Elizabeth Gavan of Manchester, whose nominated charity was Dr. Barnardo's.

The finals of the contest were organised at The Lyceum Ballroom by Top Ten Promotions Ltd. and awards were presented by Mr. Douglas Arter.

The competition attracted a record entry of 33 contestants who, between them, raised over £42,000 for the charities of their choice.

More good news for spastics:

Fourth place went to Jane Trushell who raised £2,750 for the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics seventh to Heather Puddephatt, who collected £1,781 for Daresbury Hall Spastics Centre, and eleventh place to Dawn Scully who raised £1,156 for the Bristol Spastics Association. Grants added by The Good Neighbours Trust will bring another £1,000 to spastics.

Full report and photographs will appear in our next issue.

Strike a Ducal light!

The Duke and Duchess of Bedford aren't reduced to selling matches—the books of matches were novel raffle tickets which the Duke and Duchess were distributing at the Bedford Spastics Society's Ball at Woburn Abbey. Looking amused at the Duchess's sales "patter" are Mr. Ian Codrington, the Society's Chairman, and Miss A. E. Kidder, the secretary.

Picture by courtesy of the East Beds Courier.

GIFT FROM CLUB

The Unity Club, Parkstone, Dorset, has given £50 to the Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastics Association.



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Nation asked for cash and compassion

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Games on Sunday morning—particularly for the young competitors and visitors—will be the appearance of famous clown Pierre Picton with his world-renowned car act.

More fun — with Bartholomew Proton X12, Bart to his friends, the robot built by students at the Hornsey College of Art for Spastics Week. Bart is a robot flag seller, and he will start work on Friday, July 10th, at the Society's flag day in the City of London. At the Mansion House, Bart will sell a flag to the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Ian Bowater, and the Lady Mayoress, and it is hoped, hundreds more to City workers.

On Saturday, July 11th, flag day in the Greater London area, Bart will be on duty at Selfridges, Oxford Street, and it is unlikely that many shoppers in the huge store will be able to resist him.

Stick-ons

The Society's new flags will be pretty popular too. Pins are a thing of the past; the new flags cling to clothes.

"This has several advantages," said Flag Day Organiser, Mr. Kevin Finucane. "First, the flags do not damage clothes by making pinholes. Second, buyers don't become impaled and sellers' thumbs are spared. Third, the flags do not fall off—although they can be easily removed when necessary."

Spastic children from some of the Society's schools will form the choir at the Service of Dedication for Spastics Week at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, on Sunday, July 5th, at 3.45 p.m. The service will be conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Austen Williams, and the address will be given by the Earl of Arran.

Typical of the ingenuity and hard work which is going into the organisation of events for Spastics Week, is the "Uncommon Market" being held by the staff at the Society's Family Services and Assessment Centre, Fitzroy Square, London, on Saturday, July 4th.

Working hard

Staff members are making every possible effort to raise £750 and they and their friends will be running 30 stalls — everything from "Tat" to antiques — sideshows, a tombola and an art exhibition. A good chance for hard-up art lovers here because the top price will be £10. The "Uncommon Market" will be held from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

This is just a brief selection of the many activities which go up to make Spastics Week '70. You will find news of more on other pages.

Let Michael Reynolds, Spastics Week Co-ordinator, have the last word. To Local Groups he says: "Everyone at Society headquarters wishes you the very best of luck with all your activities for the Week."

And to the public, he says: "Please help us to help spastics."

Group hopes to "cadge" for bungalow

WEST Sussex Spastics Group has bought a £5,400 bungalow at Bracklesham Bay, Sussex, so that spastic children and their parents can enjoy a holiday by the sea. The last

£1,600 had to be borrowed to buy the bungalow and now the Group is having a fund-raising drive to pay off the debt.

Members are also after furniture, linen and crockery to turn the bungalow into a

"home from home" for the visitors.

Says Chairman Mrs. Doris Pennicott: "We are hoping we can cadge enough furniture in time to open the bungalow for our first guests in August."

SOCIETY HELPS THE RIGHT HAND KNOW WHAT THE LEFT IS DOING



A study in concentration as visitors to the Society's exhibition stand ponder the theme "Communication."

BARONESS Serota, Minister of State, Dept. of Health in the last Government, was among the many visitors who toured The Spastics Society's stand at the International Hospital Equipment Medical Engineering and Services Exhibition at Earls Court, London, in June.

Throughout the four-day exhibition, the Society's stand — vividly putting across the theme of "Communication" — was extremely popular, and the staff members manning the stand were congratulated on the bright new approach.

The principal aim of the stand was "Let's do something about this abysmal lack of communication between professional and professional regarding services for the handicapped." In other words, let the left hand know what the right hand is doing.

To put this vital point across the Society used the 1,200 square foot of space for maximum impact. The starkly simple black-and-

white cubed design allowed for really graphic treatment of all those fields in which the Society is vitally interested, as well as aiding visual continuity.

Separate sections were devoted to education and therapy, transport, aids and appliances, subnormality, employment and training. Each of the sections highlighted the wide selection of relevant and well-researched publications produced by The Spastics Society.

Paintings

The stand also incorporated a unique and colourful feature — a display of nearly 100 2'3" square paintings by handicapped children and adults at the Society's various Schools and Centres. Some of the pictures are the work of subnormal children since, as a Society spokesman commented: "Painting, to these children, is a subconscious means of communication with the outside world. And communication is what our stand is all about."

Hemel Hempstead Operatic and Dramatic Society held an old-time music hall in aid of the Hemel Hempstead and District Spastics Society.

Stars will attend Games Ball

A GALAXY of stars from the worlds of sport and show business will attend a grand summer Ball being held in aid of the Spastics Games fund. The Ball will be held at Ashlyn, Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire on July 4, the first day of the National Spastics Games.

Among the stars who have tentatively agreed to attend are Henry Cooper, Rupert Davies, members of the cast of the Rank Organisation production of "Jane Eyre," and the A.T.V. production of "Hamlet."

Nat Temple and his band will play for the guests, who are expected to number between 300 and 400. There will be a cabaret which will feature a surprise celebrity artiste.

Tickets for the ball are £3 3s. each, available from Mrs. A. Monzani of Little Rushmore, Chesham Bois, Amersham, Buckinghamshire, and from Miss K. Williams, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

Special attractions at the Ball include a "slap up" buffet and a tombola with gifts ranging from Swiss watches to a gold plated cigarette lighter.

Last year, Mrs. Monzani, who is organising the Ball, raised £850 for spastics. A sponsored walk organised by her in May has already raised more than £1,000.

£440 FROM BOWLING MARATHON

A CHEQUE for over £440 has been presented to Peterborough Spastics Society as the result of a 12-hour marathon bowl by 10-pin bowlers from the Perkins Sports Association.

The bowlers set out to beat the European record for marathon bowling, and only just failed to do so. The players were sponsored by work-fellows, friends and relatives, and the firm offered a penny a pin knocked down by the highest scoring team, and this added £100 to the fund.

Non-stop sponsored Disco

ON the final day of Spastics Week, July 11th, Exeter disc jockey Allan Boulton will start a non-stop charity discotheque at the Knight Club, Exeter.

The music will play for 15 hours, and as well as charging admission, Allan will be sponsored, so the result should be a welcome donation for the Devon and Exeter Spastics Society.

RUGS FROM CLUB FOR CHILDREN

MEMBERS of the Stephen Hill Youth Club will visit The Spastics Society's Hawks-worth Hall School in July to present a bedside rug for every pupil. They will also hand over a cheque for £20. The club is well known in the area for its charitable work.



A 1925 bullnose Morris owned and driven by Mr. Leslie Kent and carrying members of the York Theatre Royal Company — in appropriate costume — at the start of a spectacular vintage vehicle fair at York. Over 7,000 people saw the old vehicles, ranging from buses to bicycles, and entries were drawn from all parts of the country. The event was in aid of York and District Spastics Society and the N.S.P.C.C.

Picture by courtesy of the Yorkshire Evening Press.

TOM AND "FLICKA" NEAR END OF THEIR JOURNEY

CORNISHMAN Tom Stephens, who is driving a donkey, and shay from John O'Groats to Land's End, to raise money for spastics, expects to finish his journey on Saturday, July 4 — just in time for Spastics Week. Tom and the donkey "Flicka" have made excellent progress since they set out on

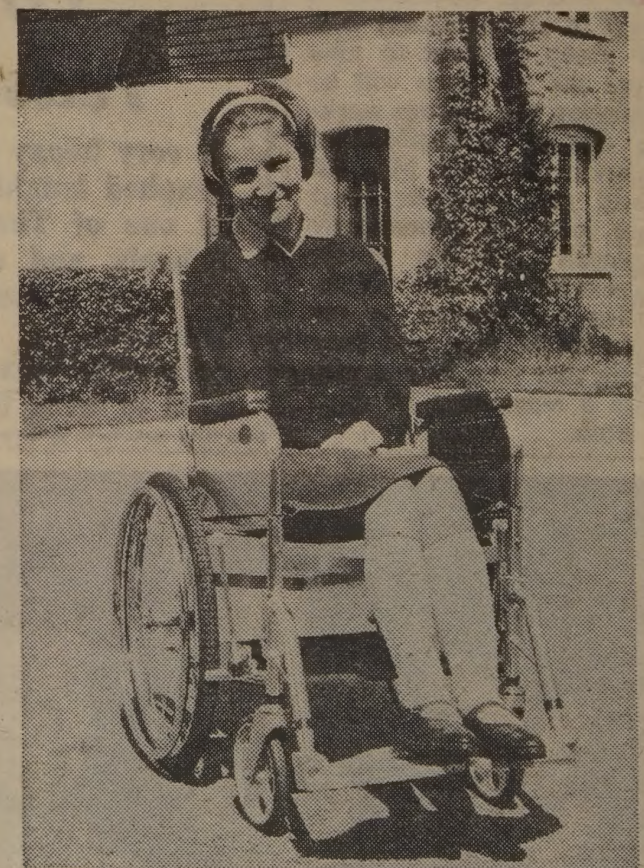
their 900 mile journey on June 2.

In Bristol they were given a tremendous reception, and a brass band accompanied them through the town. Another grand reception was expected to await Mr. Stephens at Plymouth.

Both Mr. Stephens and the donkey were in good spirits as they moved into their home territory, the West Country. Before reaching Land's End they will pass through their home town of St. Blazey, where Mr. Stephens runs a smallholding. He is exceptionally well known in this area, and many of his friends are expected to turn out to cheer him on his way.

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THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

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Successful competitor George Hart, a member of Falmouth '62 Club, receives a prize from Major General J. K. I. Douglas-Withers at the Regional Spastics Games at Taunton. The Games—and others at Lancaster, Tonbridge, Mansfield and Norwich—were preliminaries to the National Spastics Games at Stoke Mandeville on July 4th and 5th. Mr. Hart will be among the 241 spastics competing at the National Games, as a result of their performances at the Regional events. The youngest will be eight years old—the oldest 63.

Croydon record

A record total of £4,000 was raised by Croydon and District Spastics Society's recent house-to-house collection. The money will be used towards increasing running costs at the Group's two Centres.

THAT CUP MATCH CUT CROWDS

THE lovely gardens at Sutton Hall, near Ipswich, Suffolk, were opened by the Hon. Peter and Mrs. Strutt on behalf of the Ipswich and East Suffolk Spastics Society, but, sadly, the event coincided with the England-West Germany World Cup Match. This proved to be a powerful counter attraction, but nearly 400 people turned up and treasurer, Mr. Terry Gent, was able to record an addition of over £50 to the Society's funds.

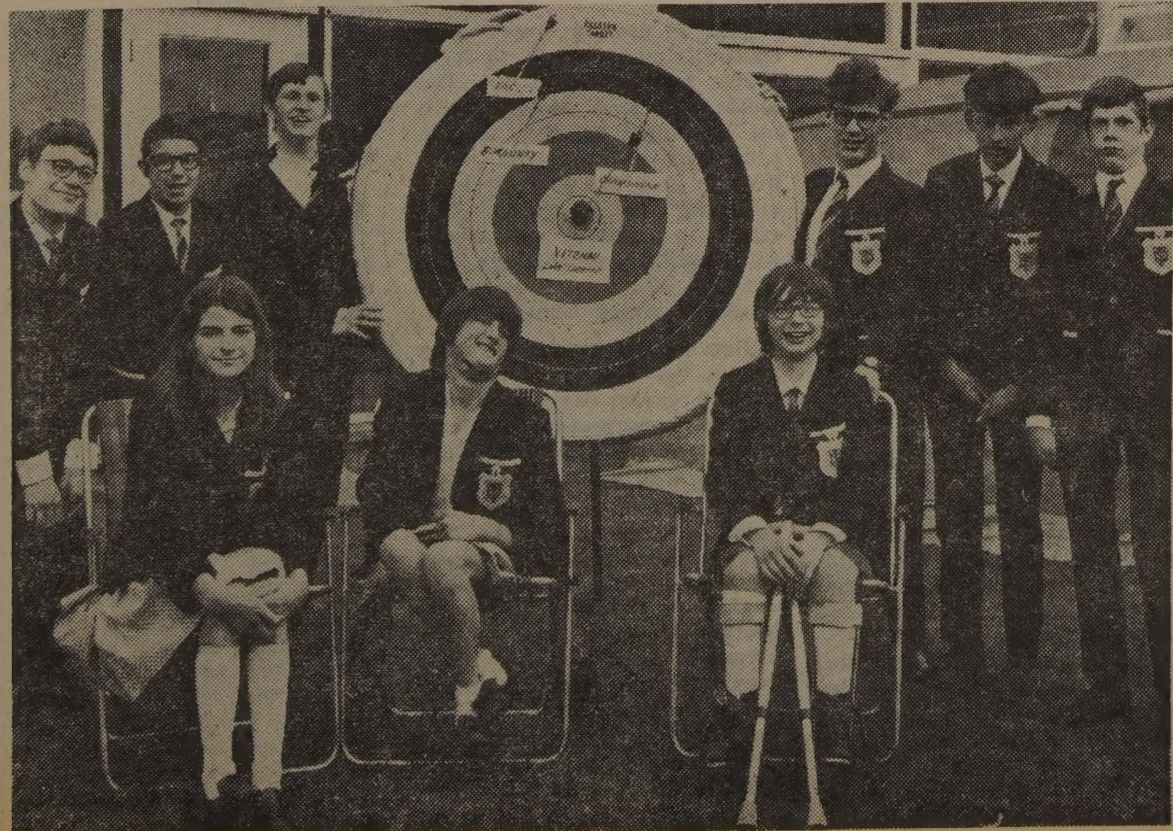
Mr. George Pendle, manager of the Wellington Work Centre and his helpers boosted the fund with profits on the sale of refreshments.

Holiday will hit the fun target

THE TARGET is Vitznau and Lake Lucerne for these nine youngsters of The Spastics Society's Thomas Delarue School, Tonbridge, Kent, at the end of July. For they are setting off in their minibus and a car on a continental camping holiday with their history master and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Lacy, together with their P.T. master and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Preston Fairweather. Their route will be via Paris, Burgundy and Champagne.

From left to right, they are (front row), Judith Underwood, Gillian Slow and Amanda Dee (rear row), Roger Octon, Dean Youngman, Anthony Gamble, Richard Syrie, Mark Thorpe and Gareth Owen.

Picture: Austin Underwood.



The big step-out for funds

TRAMP! Tramp! Tramp! Through the forest roads, public parks, private estates of Stately Homes they will go in the greatest collective heel-and-toe ever for spastics. Thousands of pairs of feet on loan to us—precious feet sponsored by generous patrons in a unique series of walks which must raise a huge sum for Spastics Week.

This great national step-out by our young helpers is the culmination of many months of careful planning by a great many people all over the country. What a wonderful response from schools, from youth clubs, from the owners of Stately Homes, from Local Authorities, who have enabled so many walks to take place in their own private grounds and parks, free from the traffic of the main roads? This policy has ensured that all the walks for young people are routed for safety.

With characteristic generosity, nine of the greatest Stately Homes of England have opened their grounds to our marchers. Here are the details:

Monday, 6th July

ARUNDEL CASTLE

Thanks to the kindness of the Duke of Norfolk, 800 volunteers drawn from seven public schools will walk miles inside the grounds of the historic home of the Earl Marshal.

CHATSWORTH

By kind permission of the Duke of Devonshire, 400 walkers from four schools will step-out for spastics on this famous estate.

HAREWOOD HOUSE

From the Earl of Harewood, too, has come permission for a walk in the grounds of his ancestral home. There will be 300 walkers from three schools.

KNOLE

Six schools will send over

250 walkers to walk in the grounds of Knole by consent of the owner, Lord Sackville.

PETWORTH

Petworth will be the scene of a massive walk where Lord Egremont has agreed that 125 walkers from two schools can participate.

WOBURN ABBEY

Another famous stately home where the Duke of Bedford has agreed that 125 walkers from two schools can participate.

WHEREWELL PRIORY

By permission of Marjorie, Countess of Brecknock, 200 walkers from two schools will stage their walk here.

Wednesday, 8th July

BLenheim PALACE

In the historic ground of Blenheim 200 walkers from two schools will do their bit by permission of the Duke of Marlborough and the Marquess of Blandford.

WESTON PARK

Home of the Earl of Bradford, who has permitted the use of the grounds for 350 walkers from three schools.

Among the thousands who will step out for spastics is the famous Olympic road walker Paul Nihill, who will attempt to set a world record for a 10-mile sponsored walk at Richmond Park. And teamed with him as his sponsor, is famous pop star Lulu. Lulu would have taken part, but she is filming that day.

The Richmond Park walk which will begin at 11.30 a.m. on Sunday, July 12th, is attracting a huge entry. As we go to press the latest figure is 4,000 walkers, most of them from over 30 schools in the boroughs of Richmond, Wandsworth, Merton, Hounslow and Hillingdon. However, there is still room for many more.

Another mammoth walk, which must surely be a record, will be held over 12 miles of Epping Forest, also on Sun-

day, July 12. So far, over 10,000 entrants are expected to take part, but the figure could top 20,000.

This wonderful entry is the result of a blanket approach to over 3,000 youth clubs, and every school in North and North-East London. The response has been magnificent.

And after the walks comes an 18-hour hike—from Peterborough to London, about 81 miles, and the event is for older volunteers. The gallant band will leave Cathedral Square, Peterborough, at 6 p.m. on July 4th and will arrive at Trafalgar Square at 2 p.m. on July 5th where they will be met by a celebrity. All funds raised will be donated to The Spastics Society's Family Help Unit being built at Bury St. Edmund's, Suffolk, to serve the East Anglia region. Good luck to Peterborough on this wonderful effort, and may they be well rewarded.

There is little doubt that during Spastics Week the nation will be putting its best foot forward for spastics. Thanks to them all and to their sponsors who will back them with the pounds, shillings and pence so desperately needed to help spastics.

Spastics Week

July 5-11

Thrice welcome

A CHEQUE for £1,460 has been presented to West Bromwich and District Spastics Society by the pupils of Wodensborough High School, Wednesbury, Staffordshire. In fact — it has been presented three times!

The money was the proceeds of the school's all-out, two-week charity drive to raise funds for a holiday bungalow on the North Wales coast for spastics and their families. But the school has three separate buildings, and children from all three helped in the drive.

The answer was for the cheque to be presented to Mrs. June Carroll, secretary of the Group, in all three sections of the school.

The cash was raised by a 30-mile sponsored walk, plus events ranging from a minstrel show to a treasure hunt.

YOUNG HELPERS



For the second time, children in Moreton Lane, Offerton, Stockport, have banded together to organise a jumble sale in aid of the Stockport Spastics Society. One of their neighbours is a spastic girl who attends the Stockport Centre which the youngsters are helping by their fund-raising efforts. The sale was held in the garden of one of the houses in Moreton Lane where a brisk trade was done by Julie and Wendy Pickford and their friends Julie Wright and Carole Shepherd.

Picture by courtesy of Stockport Express.

Spastic voters determined to have their say

ELECTION interest was high at the various adult Centres run by The Spastics Society throughout the country, and plans were made to get spastic men and women eligible to vote to their local polling stations on June 18.

Mini-buses, ambulances and 25-seater buses were laid on for the heavily handicapped, others went on foot and in self-propelled wheelchairs pushed by fellow-residents or staff at the Centres.

The "Get Them To The Booths On Time" scheme was at the instigation of the spastics themselves, who were determined not to miss the chance of recording their votes.

Said Mr. James Loring,

Director of the Society, "Spastics take as great an interest in the running of their country as the non-handicapped, and they intend to have their say. A number got votes for the first time and they were determined to use them."

"Failed"

"Successive Governments have failed to make adequate provision for the needs of the handicapped generally, and although the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons' Bill shows a step forward to alleviate some of the prob-

lems, the three main political parties will have to revise their ideas in order to ease the real suffering and hardship endured by many disabled people. What is desperately needed is the appointment of a special Government Minister to deal with the needs of the handicapped.

"Spastics realised that election day was their 'D for Disabled Day' when they could make their votes count; they certainly showed that 'immobility' is not synonymous with 'apathy'."

Over the border—that was the Week that was

SPASTICS Week in Scotland has been and gone—in a wave of enthusiasm and success, Scottish Spastics Week held from June 7th to 13th did not coincide with National Spastics Week because local holidays overlapped the nationally selected Week. But it did take place at the same time as the big General Election build-up.

Despite this competition, the Stars Organisation for Spastics in Scotland started the week on Sunday by staging a Top-Firm Sponsored Walk in Glasgow, and concluded it on the Saturday with a Star Summer Fayre in one of the large City Halls.

It is expected that over £2,000 will be raised from these events.

Throughout Scotland, Committees pressed home their planned attack on the community to raise funds, and an army of flag sellers descended on Stirlingshire and Lanarkshire. Fetes, coffee mornings and incidental events will add to the grand total.

All the Scottish banks allowed counter collections at their branches throughout the country.

No place to go—so £20,000 must be raised

AN Appeals Committee has been formed by the Hertfordshire Spastics Society, in close co-operation with the Friends of Cell Barnes Hospital and the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children.

It has the formidable task of raising £20,000 by April 1973, to build and equip a Day Unit for Spastic Children, in the grounds of Cell Barnes Hospital, St. Albans.

The Society has long been concerned that for some of the children who leave the North Watford Treatment Centre for Spastics, and others in various parts of Hertfordshire, there is at present no place to go.

The proposed unit will close one gap between childhood and adolescence, catering not only for spastics but those with similar handicaps.

The Hospital Management Committee has approved the scheme in principle and draft plans have been drawn up.

The 2,000 sq. ft. Unit will provide a physiotherapy room, treatment room, kitchen, office and store. There will also be facilities for parents to watch treatment and to gain first hand knowledge on coping with their physically handicapped children at home.

A sponsored walk organised by pupils of the Technical High School, Worthing, Sussex, has raised £245 for Worthing, Littlehampton and District Spastics Society.

HOW well does the community care for its handicapped youngsters? How much help do parents receive in the day-to-day struggle to cope with a child who is not like other children? Who cannot attend normal school, and whose disabilities will not allow him the opportunities—taken for granted by parents of the able-bodied—for education, sport and leisure activities, in his progress towards an adult life of a job, a home, a secure future.

Some of the unpleasant answers are printed

CASE HISTORY

Susan

"WHEN Susan is away at school we can manage, but the moment she comes home for the holidays we have no peace or happiness together at all. What it will be like when she leaves school I dread to think."

So said Susan's mother two years ago. Her daughter has now left school and is an acceptable and well-liked member of the Adult Training Centre. At home, though, her mother's worst fears have been realised.

Her son, the elder by 10 years—severely physically handicapped and mentally retarded—has been in a subnormality hospital since the age of three, and her husband can show no forgiveness towards the wife who has borne him two such grievously handicapped children. The knowledge corrodes the marriage like acid.

Susan, outwardly well behaved, is only too aware of the tensions between her parents. She does everything to ferment it—she also has her fears that she may be "put away like her brother."

Almost every morning there are dreadful scenes behind the curtains of the attractive bungalow built on a respectable housing estate. Susan's strongest weapon is her piercing scream. Her parents, hyper sensitive to their neighbours, cannot bear to think they would suspect their domestic unhappiness, so Susan gets her own way.

To watch—to listen—to absorb the mental agony of this tortured mother acting out her feelings towards her husband and daughter—to hear her cry bitterly over and over again: "My husband can find ways to punish me and he does—all the time."

Her husband, when seen on his own, says his wife nags and moans from morning to night, and she probably does, and who can blame her? They are bound together by the joint strands of love and hate for each other—and for Susan.

As this mother says, "There is nothing now for us to look forward to at all," as if she ever mentions Susan going away from home permanently her husband says, "You've put away one of my children, and by God I'll see you don't do it with Susan."

Paul and Penny

RESEARCH is essential. But to parents whose children have been born handicapped their greatest need is help for themselves. Few can feel so generous that help should be extended to the unborn, when they cannot apparently acquire the simplest aids, appliances, physiotherapy, occupational and speech therapy for their children.

To learn of the thousands spent annually on research is little consolation to Paul's parents who have been wait-

Janice

JANICE was three and a half—middle child of a woman whose husband was in prison. The older boy was in a residential school for the educationally subnormal—the younger, two years old, large, hyperactive for his age, was extremely jealous (and naturally enough) of all the attention his mother had to give Janice.

A multi-handicapped severely subnormal little girl, Janice was only silent when nursed, other times she screamed violently in addition to having frequent fits. The small family had two upstairs rooms. The landlady was kind and understanding, but Janice's constant screaming upset the entire household.

In desperation, her mother asked the paediatrician to take her permanently into the Children's Unit of a subnormality hospital, but was told it was damaging for so young a child to be separated from her mother.

In despair, several weeks later, she contacted the Society's social worker asking for an urgent visit. She then admitted she had found herself in the night standing by the screaming child's cot with a pillow in her hand—about to place it over the child's face.

She had stopped herself in time—but only just—and she knew it could happen again. Not until the social worker had contacted the medical superintendent of the hospital, the paediatrician, superintendent health visitor, and Medical Officer of Health, was Janice admitted for long term care.

David and Ann

MANY mothers are unable to tolerate their children in wheel chairs as it then becomes obvious their child is handicapped.

David's mother squashes him up into an ordinary collapsible low pram much too short for him because she cannot bear anyone outside actually seeing what a grotesque unappetising little boy David appears to be, until you get to know him.

Ann's mother is still stinging from a remark made by a passer-by to a friend within her hearing, "I can't understand why children like that should be allowed to live—much better they shouldn't survive." Ann has an over large head, dribbles, and grimaces constantly, and is very different from the average lively attractive three-year-old toddler. To her parents, however, she is their child and they love and care for her devotedly.

James

JAMES, intelligence limited by severe physical handicaps, has attended a local spastics centre for physiotherapy and for a short while attended, although only 11, an Adult Training Centre. Every describable difficulty was put in the way by the local authority concerning transport and lack of staff.

For many weeks the hospital car driver was elderly, so his mother took James on her lap—hanging about all day until he was ready to leave.

After two years, when James was 13, a new, excellent Adult Training Centre opened in the area, but the emphasis was on the trainees

doing contract work. No place for a boy unable to walk, feed himself, or use a bottle on his own—who could only make sounds to indicate his needs and who could hold nothing in his hands. No special care unit attached to this centre.

The Medical Officer of Health felt the time had come for James to be in permanent residential care—there being a limit to how far community services can support the severely handicapped. The parents decided to soldier on with James, although his mother felt the strain of lifting him.

The local Spastics Physiotherapy and Day Centre geared to young children, allowed James to go several days a week, but at 16 James moved from the Health Department to the Welfare Department who have no statutory obligation to the handicapped.

The parents, in despair, felt they could no longer cope. The only place offered by the local authority was a subnormality hospital. Of its kind it was excellent.

The consultant psychiatrist agreed that James was mentally more alert than he at first appeared. Unfortunately, on physical grounds, he could only be offered a place in the ward containing the most severely subnormal patients.

The parents cannot tolerate the thought of James going to this particular ward, and who could blame them? How much longer can they manage though, and how much help have they had over the years?

here today. These are true case histories of spastic children, taken from the files of The Spastics Society's social workers. Names have been changed to preserve secrecy, but all the stories are factual. They present a disturbing picture of the frustrations and worries suffered by parents, and of the shocking lack of facilities available to help some of Britain's most unfortunate children.

These children deserve a better deal. Spastics Week is being held so that a public spotlight can be thrown on their needs and problems. All the more reason for supporting Spastics Week.

Mary

MARY is a pretty, curly-haired mentally handicapped spastic with optical impairment. When she was four it was suggested that she should be admitted to the Junior Training Centre as no suitable day nursery was available. Mother would not accept this as she considered Mary of higher intelligence than children attending the Centre. A year later Mary was medically and psychologically assessed, and it was advised that she should go to the school for the physically handicapped.

But there was no such school in the county, so the family doctor suggested a new, well-equipped school for the educationally subnormal. Further disappointment, as no children under seven were admitted, and in any case there were no facilities for a child like Mary, who is unable to walk.

So Mary went to the Junior Training Centre, which had extremely limited facilities for the physically handicapped child.

Eighteen months later Mary was assessed by The Spastics Society and is now in one of the Society's residential schools. But before they sent Mary away from home, the parents did everything in their power to find work in an area where daily care and education would be available. They were unsuccessful.

Jane and Julie

JANE and Julie are two six-year-old severely physically and mentally handicapped girls, who live in the same area.

Jane is grossly overweight, apathetic and difficult to feed. There was no relief for the mother because no day care was provided locally, though prolonged negotiations have been in progress with the local authority to establish this, either at a nearby subnormality hospital or through the addition of a new unit to the Junior Training Centre.

Month after month the talks go on, but with no firm prospect of regular day relief, Jane has been permanently admitted to a subnormality hospital.

Julie was easier to handle than Jane, being thin to the point of emaciation, but the family difficulties were even more complex. There was a younger, highly intelligent brother showing signs of deprivation as his mother spent every available moment on his sister. Tension between parents was high as the mother was frequently overstrained and tired.

Again—no day care relief

Peter

PETER is severely mentally and physically handicapped with minimum sight. His mother, who is under 5ft. in height, found it increasingly difficult to manage him. Taking hours to feed, he was excessively irritable, particularly at night, grizzling for hours on end.

No day care locally, but with financial help from The Spastics Society over transport, Peter and several other preschool children, all with multiple handicaps, attended a holiday playgroup for a month during the summer. The relief to the mother was overwhelming—the effect on Peter encouraging.

After this, however, Peter went back to physiotherapy once a month and nothing else. Mother became worn out with caring for Peter, who grizzled several hours every night, and the parents considered a suggestion that he should go into the children's unit at a subnormality hospital. This, however, coincided with the news of allegations of ill-treatment of patients at a similar institution, and the parents felt they could not let him go.

Time dragged on, but at last, after months of negotiation with the Local Authority, an independent playgroup for handicapped children opened in the area. Peter now attends three mornings a week. He—and his parents—have waited three years for day care relief.

available locally. To avoid the mother's complete breakdown, Julie has had to go permanently into a mental subnormality hospital.

Mark

MARK was too severely handicapped to remain at a school for physically handicapped children and instead, was offered a place in a subnormality unit for men—where he would be the only boy.

The only alternative was three-day-a-week attendance at a special care unit attached to a hospital. Because Mark suffers from asthma and requires special nursing, often at night, the local authority offered a home help. But the parents simply couldn't afford it. In their county, parents must pay according to income, which on their £20 a week wage, would have meant 3s. 9d. an hour.

Mark's brother is in an approved school—the direct result of deprivation of care—because his mother is excessively devoted to Mark.



Spastics Week July 5-11

PICTURED TOP LEFT: Mr. C. Hollingsworth of Ludborough (left) receives from Mr. J. Belcher, Chairman of South Humberside Spastics Society, the £200 second prize in the Spastic League Club Charm Girl Competition. The presentation took place at the Cross Key Inn, Fulstow. Mr. Belcher said that the club had donated £7,000 towards the £20,000 Day Centre at Scartho road Hospital, Grimsby.

Valuable links are forged

A PLEASING feature of recent months has been a growth in understanding and co-operation between The Spastics Society's Local Groups and supervisors and collectors for the competition. This is becoming more evident every month and the help being given by officials at presentations is greatly appreciated, and is a valuable means of strengthening the link.

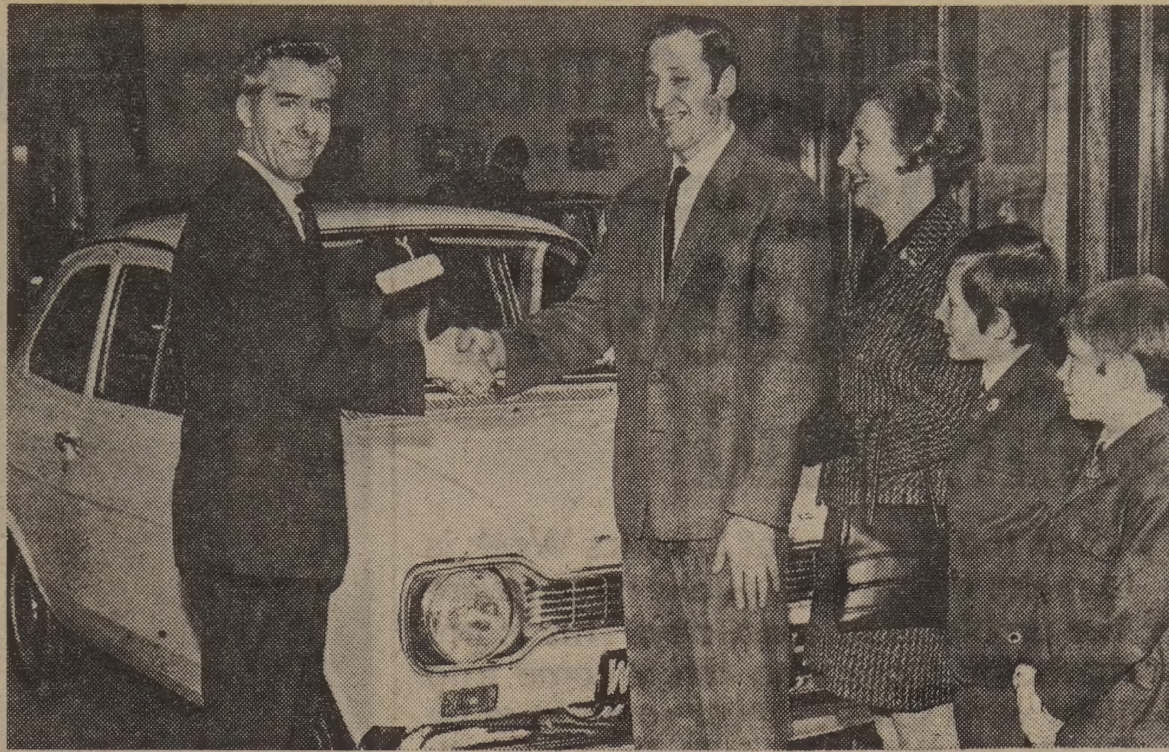
Last month, prizes in the Spastic League Club Charm Girl Competition were presented by Mr. J. Belcher, Chairman of the South Humberside Spastics Society and by Mr. F.

Craven, Superintendent Warden of the Spastics Residential Unit at Snakes Lane, Woodford Green, Essex.

Photographs of these presentations appear in this feature. We hope that in the future it will be possible to have the help of other personalities connected with work for spastics in this way. It leads to valuable local publicity and helps to underline the relationship between the competitions and the Society and its affiliated Groups.

Sailors show the way

"THE POOL" has thousands of collectors in all walks of life throughout the country "flying the flag" in innumerable occupations. An interesting example of this has been sent to



TOP RIGHT: Mr. J. Revell of Loughton, Essex, receiving his Ford Escort De Luxe car from Mr. F. Craven, Superintendent Warden of the Spastics Residential Unit, Snakes Lane, Woodford Green, Essex.

Splashes from the Spastics Pool

us by Mr. J. B. Morgan, a Newport Area Supervisor.

One of Mr. Morgan's collectors is a stewardess at the Mission to Seamen's Club at Newport Docks and she asked Mr. Morgan to contact the Engineer of the S.S. "Welsh Herald".

When Mr. Morgan did so he found that the members of the crew had put aside their odd coppers when the vessel was on voyage and in this way had collected £3 17s. 1d. which they wished to go towards helping spastics. This money was passed to Mr. P. Dombrski, Secretary of the Spastics Society in that area.

Olympic ideal at Games

ONCE again Regional Pool Promotions is sponsoring the National Spastics Games and Chairman, Mr. D. S. Arter, will be there to present prizes. As before, he will take full advantage of the opportunity to talk to the competitors and encourage them.

When asked for his views on the future of the Games Mr. Arter said, "Last year when we heard of the proposal to inaugurate the Games and that a sponsor had to be found to bear the

costs, we were happy to come forward because we felt this was a great opportunity.

"At last year's meeting I was delighted with the wonderful effort made by spastics, from the seriously handicapped to the more lightly affected. In spite of the different physical difficulties there was not one competitor who did not give of his best.

"In games of this kind we see the value of the Olympic idea—so often absent in the outside world—that the important thing is not to win but to participate.

"We gladly agreed to continue our sponsorship this year, and are pleased to note the way in which the idea is being developed.

"We look ahead to the day when these Games will become international and spastics throughout the world will meet in friendly competition."

Bright ideas please

THERE was a terrific response to our request in Spastics News for photographs for use in our regular Charm

Girl competitions and of the hundreds received 10 were actually from spastic girls.

These 10 photos were used in an internal competition for R.P.P. collectors which was extremely successful. The girls not only received a cheque for £5 each, but also won cheques for varying amounts for their Local Groups.

This idea was so successful that we would like to

BELOW, LEFT: Judging the latest Charm Girl Contest for Top Ten looks a pleasant task for actress Peggy Cummings, disc jockey Alan Freeman, and London Evening News fashion editor, Peggy Graham.

BELOW, RIGHT: Mrs. Amy Pollitt, 84-year-old Benchill, Manchester, widow, won £3,192 5s. 0d. and commented on being told of her win, "I was surprised, I just didn't know what to do."

Perhaps the win of a Premium Bond a few weeks ago was a good omen. Mrs. Pollitt has two sons, but at present has no idea what to spend the money on. She is still dazed by it all. She was presented with the cheque by Hank Marvin, of The Shadows at The Golden Garter Showbar Restaurant, Wythenshawe.

follow-up with another competition from which your Local Group can benefit.

If you have any ideas for a competition please write to:

Regional Pool Promotions Ltd., P. & P. Department, 104 Stokes Croft, Bristol 1.

If your competition is used you will be suitably rewarded and you will be helping Groups to benefit, so please put on your thinking caps and let us have any ideas you can.



EMPLOYMENT MOVES & NEWS

RECENT employment moves and news are as follows (training centres in brackets):

JOHN BARKER from Birkenhead (Lancaster) is doing assembly work for a firm in Wallasey.

ANN BRADLEY from West Bromwich (Sherrards) is working locally as an assembler/packer.

WILLIAM COOKE from Kirby has a new job and is now working as an office cleaner for a local engineering company.

DENISE DARTON from Hemel Hempstead (Sherrards) is doing assembly and soldering work for a firm in South Woodford, and is living at the Society's nearby hostel.

MALCOLM DAVIS from Flimwell (Sherrards) is working at Pembury Hospital as a trainee dark room technician.

MALCOLM FINE from Putney Heath has been working for some time in the transport office of the Blue Circle Cement Co., where he is doing general office duties.

LINDA HODSON from Denton, nr. Manchester, is employed as a clerk/typist by a local firm.

DAVID HUTCHINSON from Bridlington (Lancaster) is working as a clerk for British Rail in Hull.

MATTHEW JOBE from Northampton (Sherrards) is working as a trainee lacer for a local firm of boot and shoe manufacturers.

CZARINA MOHAMMED from Kilburn is working as a viewer in the inspection department of a manufacturing firm in Willesden.

ELAINE QUIN from Middlesbrough (Lancaster) is working as a junior clerk for a local firm.

MRS. HEATHER WEARE from Yeovil has a new job locally.

JOHN ANDREW WILLS from Bradford has a new job and is now employed as a machinist by a local firm.

JOY WOODHEAD from Dukinfield (Lancaster) is employed as a clerk by a confectionery company in Ashton-under-Lyme.



Society's schools on show

TO mark the centenary of the 1870 Education Act, The Spastics Society was invited to provide displays of the work of its schools and further education centres.

The first display was in June at the Teachers' Centre, Portsmouth, at an exhibition organised by the Portsmouth Education Authority, and the second will be from the 20th to 25th of July at the Norfolk County Council Festival of Education.

Meldreth, the Society's school for severely physically and mentally handicapped children, was the subject of a display at an exhibition organised by the Greenwich Society for Mentally Handicapped Children for a week in June.

Jane hands over her big cheque

Miss Jane Trushell, placed fourth in the finals of the National Charity Princess Contest, presents a cheque for £2,750 to Mr. Archie McConnochie, Chairman of the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics.

Jane raised the money on her way to the finals of the competition. She was sponsored by the Corseford Residential School for Spastics, Renfrewshire, where she is a classroom assistant.

In congratulating Jane on her splendid effort, Mr. McConnochie referred to the additional benefit the Council had gained during Jane's fund-raising campaign, by receiving so much Press and TV publicity on the needs of spastics. He valued this at over £2,500.



When it comes to spastics—please keep an open mind

ONE of the purposes of Spastics Week is to make the general public more aware of the problems of spasticity. This is important, for those who rarely come into contact with spastics must sometimes be confused by the wide diversity of handicaps, both mental and physical.

After all, if one's mental image of a spastic is of the middle-aged man next door, sitting impassively in his wheelchair or moving laboriously about on sticks, it must be muddling to come across an athetoid child with wildly jerking limbs and explosive speech.

There can be enormous differences, too, in the degree of handicap. One spastic may be completely bedridden, unable to sit up or do anything for himself, while another may lead a completely normal life, impeded only by slurred speech or a slight clumsiness with fine movements.

Most spastics fall somewhere between these two extremes of physical disability, and mental handicaps bring even more discrepancies. It is a sad fact that about a quarter of the spastic population is mentally handicapped, but naturally enough, those who are intelligent resent being treated as retarded.

Intelligent spastics are about as diverse as any cross-section of the community. In fact it is quite amusing to find examples to fit the old counting refrain, "Tinker, tailor..."

Certainly there are not many people who go from door to door mending old pots and pans nowadays, but an updated version of the Tinker's craft can be found in the soldering and welding processes carried out in many of the Society's Work Centres. Many spastic women are adept at making their own

KALEIDOSCOPE by Anne Plummer

clothes, so no doubt there are spastics employed as professional Tailors.

For a Soldier, we need search no further than the story of Ken Parker—passed "A1" for the Army—in last month's Spastics News. I have not heard of any spastic joining the Navy yet, but the Channel crossing made nearly two years ago by two spastics in a catamaran illustrates the wider application of Sailor.

Famous Names

Money, of course, is no safeguard against cerebral palsy and many spastics have been born in well-to-do families. The Roman Emperor Claudius and the English poet Lord Byron, each thought to have been spastic, were both born to positions of considerable wealth and influence in their own centuries. In our own time, the best selling Dublin author Christy Brown looks like becoming quite a Rich Man by his own efforts if the tax authorities allow him to keep some of the royalties from his latest book. Good luck to him.

The majority of spastics, unfortunately, are Poor Men, especially those unable to work in open employment. Under the Welfare State, nobody is actually a Beggar Man although this is surprising, considering the woefully inadequate pensions given to those who have never worked.

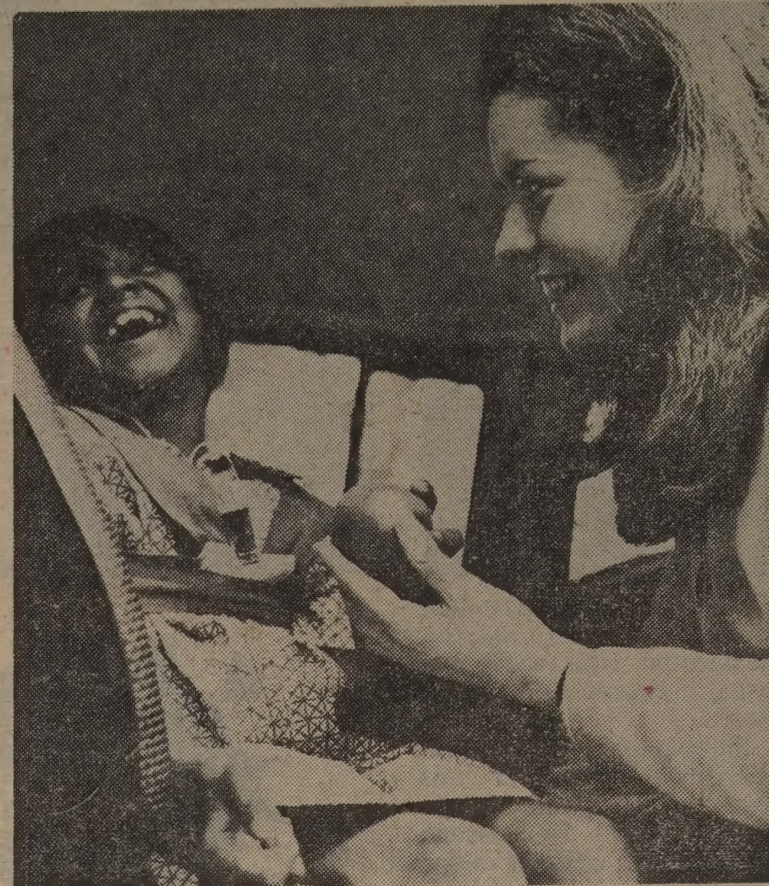
No Halo

Finally, dare I say it, there is the Thief. One does not automatically grow a halo because one happens to suffer from cerebral palsy, and spastics are just as likely as anybody else to be in trouble with the police.

Apart from these somewhat outmoded categories, spastics are to be found in all walks of modern life. There are doctors, lawyers, teachers, accountants, computer programmers, shorthand typists, factory hands, farm labourers... and the journalist writing this article.

All this only goes to show how important it is for the outsider to keep an open mind on the subject and treat each spastic according to his or her individual merits.

"Everything was apples" for the Ingfield children



Picture shows Miss Tasmania giving a beautiful ripe apple to pupil Marjorie Rameswari.

"EVERYTHING was apples"—as they say in Australia—at The Spastics Society's Ingfield Manor School when the children received a visit from Miss Tasmania. With her came a huge box of Tasmanian apples for the pupils.

After distributing apples Miss Tasmania—19 year old hairdresser Brenda Eccles—officially handed over a minibus which was a present to the school from "The People" newspaper. The bus was bought with money raised for the "Man of the People Christmas Appeal." Miss E. M. Varty, Headmistress at Ingfield, officially received the ignition keys and logbook of the new bus.

Miss Tasmania was born in England at Southport, Lancashire. She raised money for spastics in order to qualify for the Miss Tasmania competition, and her visit to England is part of her prize.

How fashion helps the handicapped

THE French have a saying that the more things change, the more they remain the same. And certainly so far as the fashion/beauty world is concerned, we continually ape our forebears.

Take the modern vogue for wigs and hairpieces. These were in fashion as far back as several thousand centuries B.C., being worn by the ancient Egyptians. Wigs have also been highly popular in many different ages since then, including the first Elizabethan era—indeed, Queen Elizabeth I is said to have owned over 80 different wigs.

However whereas in past



The Curvybird is pre-shaped to fit instantly and smoothly into the nape of the neck and can be brushed into a variety of styles. Price £4.15s.

But it is mainly the recent introduction of really good-looking and easy-care synthetic fibres that has put "instant grooming" within the reach of most women.

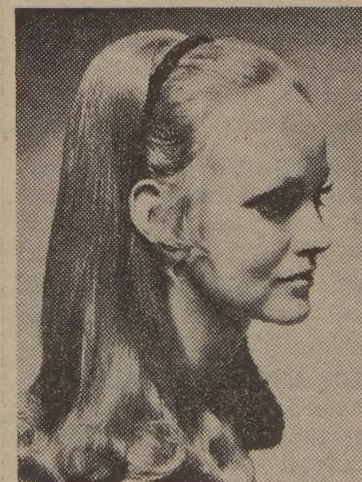
These wigs and 'pieces'—useful to any woman as a quick beauty aid—are especially helpful for the handicapped. After all, it isn't so easy to nip down to the hairdressers when one is confined to a wheelchair, while home hairdressing can be a nightmare if hands are a little unsteady. But just pop on a pre-styled wig and pat or brush into place, or get someone in the family to pin on a generous backdrop of curls, and there you are—a perfect hairstyle in mere minutes.

The newest and best synthetic fibre wigs and 'pieces' now marketed by many firms are made from a 100 per cent non-inflammable modacrylic fibre, which looks very like human hair. And, because they are also permanently shaped, and washable, they are simple



These PartyCurls ringlets never require setting, and are simple to pin on in a moment. Price £3.10s.

eras postiche was mainly for an elite, modern industry caters for everyone. Of course, hand-made wigs of top quality European hair still cost the earth. Machine-made wigs of Asiatic hair are much less expensive.



Who doesn't love long tresses? You needn't wait to grow your own, this easy-to-wear wig is the answer. Price £4.19s.6d.

to look after and keep clean.

Wig styles range from the smoothly sleek to the riotously curly. Colours for both wigs and 'pieces' range through the spectrum from blonde to all the browns and reds, right down to black, and match up with most natural hair shades.

One particular advantage of a wig is that it allows for a cheerful and temporary switch of hair colour without the bother and expense of bleaching or tinting... a time-consuming process that many handicapped women couldn't cope with anyway.

In fact here is one case where fashion is a real boon to the handicapped—and where a modest initial outlay



The Gipsybird creates two styles in minutes. It can be worn casually brushed back from the face as shown, or brushed into a roll to give the appearance of long up-swept hair. Price £7.10s.

can pay for itself many times over in savings on professional hairdressing costs.

The wigs in the pictures are by Carmen.

PAT TAYLOR

Wheelchairs levelled the soccer odds

COMPETITORS were equal when Hampshire's Odiham District Scout service team went to The Spastics Society's Ponds Home, Seer Green, to play a football match with the residents. The Scouts took to the field in wheelchairs, too; this levelled the odds, and the match resulted in a 2-2 draw.

The standard of play may not have been up to the level of the Aztec Stadium, but the match was played with such enthusiasm and enjoyment that it is hoped to arrange a return fixture soon.



A little boy surveys the world from the security of the garden at Meldreth, The Spastics Society's Training School for 120 severely physically and mentally handicapped children, near Royston, Herts. Meldreth is just one more reason why Spastics Week is so necessary and why it is so vital that the Week should be a fund-raising success. What is life like at this unique school? The thoughtful article printed below gives a visitor's impression.

"DID you come by ambulance?"

The child's arms hung, relaxed, over the arms of his steel wheelchair. His prickly, fair hair stood out in a halo round his thin wincing face. The wince became a smile, wide, incautious, surprised.

"Did you?"

"No, I came by car."

The little boy nodded, his jaw repeatedly trying to master the next thought that came quickly into his head. His thin, bony knees were held close together; his lower legs splayed out on the platform of his chair. Around him other children sat chattering, gesturing distastefully, smiling widely.

"My name's Andrew. What's yours?"

"Mine's Elspeth. I like Andrew. It's a strong name."

"I can pick up a ball," His head had turned awkwardly as a bright plastic ball had come bouncing across the room abandoned by another child who had tired of it. He paused breathily between each word, his eyes on the ball. I picked it up and held it in front of him. He focused on it and his thin fingers moved up from his lap. One hand reached it; the other moved distractedly sideways. He tried again.

"You've made it, Andrew."

He stared at the ball delightedly. It stood motionless between the forefinger of one hand and the thumb and forefinger of the other. The smile stayed, poised, on his face. Then the ball slipped upwards out of his tenuous grasp to the ceiling. He laughed.

"You couldn't do that when you came, could you Andrew?" The teacher's voice, as she passed, was low with confidence

A very special place called Meldreth

and achievement. Andrew laughed again. The sound was hollowed and laboured.

"I can touch you," a little girl said shyly.

Her wheelchair was slanted towards me, to the right of Andrew's. Her bony arm extended itself jerkily but determinedly to touch the tie of my bright orange dress. The gesture was repeated several times.

"I'm in Pear Tree House. Andrew's in Apple Tree House."

"Which is Pear Tree House?"

"Over there."

I looked through the window and saw a cluster of buildings connected to the warm-timbered hall by a low corridor. Meanwhile the ball had settled on the twisted lap of another little girl. She wriggled excitedly, her shoulders jerking

forwards in delight.

"What's your name?"

"Deborah. You're Elspeth. I heard."

She clutched the ball possessively, hunching her shoulders over it.

"My Mummy's coming to stay tomorrow."

"To stay here? In the school? That's nice."

"Yes."

"Which House are you in?"

"Plum Tree. My Mummy's coming to stay tomorrow. Tomorrow's Sunday and my Mummy's coming to stay." Her fringe was long and when she raised her eyebrows they disappeared under it. Her eyes were large, far-seeing, excited, like mirrors.

The sound of rhythmic pop music filled the hall from the Music Room next door. The sound was greeted with ex-

cited cries from the children. It was time to go.

A shaft of sunlight settled for a moment on the centuries-old stocks on the village green outside. Above, protectively, hung the old chestnut tree, vast, gnarled, all-knowing. Beneath it, two village girls climbed and swung on the wooden stocks. I looked back at The Spastic Society's Training School with its carefully-designed and well-equipped buildings. It had cost hundreds of thousands to build.

How many collecting boxes, how many sheets of Christmas labels, I wondered as I drove away. How much love?

ELSPETH WARREN



At Meldreth children learn how to cope with everyday life—as far as their handicaps will allow—and with great effort tackle the activities, such as feeding themselves, that the able-bodied take for granted.

Meldreth pictures by Dennis Mansell.

A message for Spastics Week from Mr. W. A.

Burn, Chairman of The Spastics Society

Just imagine life in a wheelchair...

BEFORE I ask you for support in Spastics Week, I would like every able-bodied person reading this to imagine what it is like to be a severely handicapped spastic. Truly you would be suffering one of life's most cruel afflictions.

Imagine life in a wheelchair, with ambition and opportunity bounded by the confines of your unruly body. Imagine the effort of trying to communicate; your thwarted ambitions, your

crippled hopes. Most of all, imagine the misery of being an object of pity.

This is what life is like for thousands of spastics; men, women, teenagers, and little children. They so clearly deserve not only our compassion and concern, but our understanding and help in the battle to give them an opportunity to lead happier lives and to realise their maximum potential.

They deserve the support and encouragement of the new Government which now has a great chance to show that it really cares for its weakest citizens. The Government can do this in practical terms by giving spastics—and all disabled—a reasonable standard of living, with increased allowances and grants. It can do it by working with Local Authorities to provide more educational and training opportunities for children and adolescents; more work opportunities for adults.

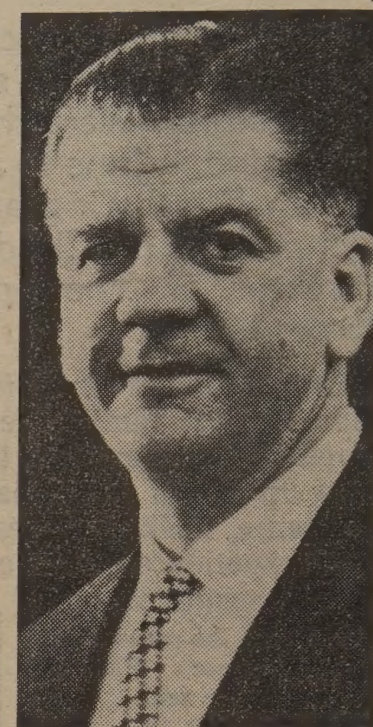
Training can work miracles

In 18 years, The Spastics Society has seen what miracles of progress can be achieved by spastics who have been given the right care and training. We cannot tackle the mammoth task alone, every national and regional authority must play its part.

There are many grey areas in the care of the disabled which require the bright light of progress. Family type hostels for the most severely physically and mentally handicapped, for instance, are urgently needed.

Children with double burden

So, too, are more pre-school and Day Care Units willing to cope with the doubly unfortunate children who suffer from mental and



Mr. W. A. Burn

physical disablement. Not only the children but their parents deserve these Units if more mothers are not to break under the stress and strain of 24-hour, unrelieved care.

We need cash and compassion

Spastics alone cannot win these battles for themselves. They depend on their able-bodied fellow countrymen to fight with and for them, and by their demands for justice, win for them a new share in rising living standards.

Thousands of devoted voluntary workers are already working for spastics, and in towns, cities and villages throughout the country will be making a special effort during Spastics Week to attract more support for their wonderful cause, to raise more money and to create that vital wider understanding.

I appeal to you to join them. To help them with your cash if you can spare it; your compassion because that is how a civilised community is judged; and your conviction that the time is NOW for the disabled to be given the justice they so rightly and richly deserve.

Director tells Prague Symposium:

Families deserve help and support with problems

THE family and social problems of severely handicapped spastics—both adults and children—were the themes of a paper presented in June to a distinguished international gathering at the second Prague Symposium of Child Neurology, by the Director of The Spastics Society, Mr. James Loring.

First section of Mr. Loring's paper dealt with the child and the family. He spoke of the distress of parents when they learn that their child is likely to grow up with a severe handicap: "Disappointment is intense, feelings of responsibility and guilt are often experienced and a cause to blame, or a scapegoat, is sought after."

Although the parents must resolve these difficulties themselves, he said, it was a great help to be able to turn to someone for support. The family doctor might fill this need, or it might be a social worker or visiting nurse, physiotherapist, priest, or well-informed person who is not a member of the family.

HOSTILE

The initial emotional upheaval was followed by other reactions — open rejection of the child was not often seen, but the hostile feelings experienced may lead to compensating overprotectiveness. In some cases the parents may appear to draw closer together, and to withdraw from society.

"Many mothers from too-cohesive families are under considerable strain despite the fact that their burdens, objectively speaking, are no heavier than those in other families. In some cases a parent will develop a condition severe enough to require psychiatric attention."

But, said Mr. Loring, it would be wrong to conclude that all families with a handicapped child reacted in this way, and it should not be forgotten that the majority of families with ordinary children go through critical and stress producing episodes without serious damage to their mental health.

He declared that the support of a family with a handi-

capped child was justified in both human and economic terms, and said it was essential that adequate diagnostic assessment and supportive facilities were available to help them.

In the section of his paper dealing with the adult and the family, Mr. Loring said that many families which coped quite well with a handicapped child experienced great difficulty when the child became adult.

He described the plight of chair-bound or bed-fast spastics; prevented from working, and sometimes from feeding and dressing themselves, and said that very few countries made adequate provision for them.

Adaptations to the home were costly and often carried out ineffectively by people with no experience of handicap—and the handicapped themselves were seldom consulted.

Eventually, the problem of nursing a severely handicapped adult may reach such proportions that the family feels obliged to send him to a long-stay hospital where the conditions are almost certain to be very inferior to those at home. Here, a handicapped adult who has received years of patient care and good medical treatment may regress into a vegetable state.

FEW JOBS

On the employment of the handicapped, Mr. Loring told the Symposium that it had been discovered in Western Countries that while it was possible to provide first-class treatment and education for the severely handicapped, jobs were not so easy to find.



The number reaching open or sheltered employment was very few indeed.

Mr. Loring also spoke of the problems faced by handicapped men and women who wished to marry. He detailed public attitudes towards marriage and family life between the physically handicapped, and said these were changing, but very slowly, and — "the idea was often unacceptable to many so-called normal people."

Handicapped people who married were faced with very real practical problems of accommodation, domestic help, employment, transport and finance.

He praised the work of the '62 Clubs in this connection and said:

"These social clubs are run by the handicapped for the handicapped and they provide a situation in which problems of marriage can be discussed, and circumstances in which handicapped people can meet, fall in love, fall out of love, and take time to make up their minds about marriage and sex."

A comic cycle ride in the film "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," inspired the latest fund-raising effort on behalf of the Percy Hedley School for Spastics, near Newcastle. Boys from local youth clubs took part in a sponsored cycle ride, dressed in Butch Cassidy costume of jeans, white collarless shirts and bowlers.

In the picture, thirsty cyclists besiege Mrs. Jennifer Park, a saleswoman at the Odeon Cinema, Sunderland, a stopping point on the journey.

Photo by courtesy of Sunderland Echo.

Initiative problem in Trans-City race

PLANS are now well under way for a spectacular fund-raiser which will take place in Glasgow on September 20th. The event is based on the 1969 Transatlantic Air Race.

Competitors must take a token across the City from the Easterhouse Project Buildings to the Bellahouston Sports Centre — a distance of six and a half miles — in the fastest possible time.

Team competitors may use any means of locomotion by air, land or sea except privately owned mechanically-propelled

road vehicles or taxis. Hitch-hiking is banned too. A special class for cyclists is being arranged.

The route will be specified for cycle teams but left to the individual ingenuity of everyone else. The object is to take the token from one side of the City to the other — using initiative.

Magnificent Trophies have been donated by Shell, Thorn, Bass-Charrington and other national companies.

Proceeds will be divided equally between Scottish spastics and Glasgow Youth Clubs.

Hearts were touched when Bob Monkhouse told the story of his son

READERS of the TV Times were deeply touched by an article written by Bob Monkhouse about his spastic son, Gary,

LAUGH with Meigh



in the magazine. As a result he received over 1,000 letters from readers, and many of them enclosed donations to help spastics.

Through the magazine, Bob Monkhouse replied with "a heartfelt 'thank you' to each and every person who took a moment to consider the plight of thousands of children like Gary, who live with terrible problems of brain injury, and who responded so generously with their friendly letters."

LOCAL entertainers gave their services free at a charity concert held at the Park Hotel, Lancaster.

The proceeds were divided between the Lancaster Spastics Training Centre and Lancaster, Morecambe and District Spastics Society.

Elaine Binton, a trainee at the Centre, presented a plant to Mr. and Mrs. Donaldson, of the Park Hotel, who acted as hosts for the evening.

The Group's share of the money raised will go towards providing a kitchen at its new Centre in Morecambe.

TEESSIDE Spastics Society has launched a £6,000 fund-raising appeal to help improve facilities for local spastics.

SOUTH Humberside Spastics Society has received generous support from the townspeople of Grimsby in Lincolnshire. A fashion show organised by the Grimsby

BITS AND PIECES by The Collector

Ladies' Circle raised £275 for Group funds, while the St. Stephen's Bingo Club, Grimsby, has presented the Group with two cheques for £250 within 12 months.

A NEW '62 club has been started at Ipswich, Suffolk, for spastics over the age of 16, and other disabled adults. Unhandicapped people will be accepted as associate members.

The Club will take over as successor to an organisation known as the Young People's Aid to Spastics Society.

PLYMOUTH Spastics Association showed examples of handicrafts in a "Homes of the People" exhibition held in Plymouth as part of the Mayflower Tercentenary celebrations.

MINERS employed at the Kingshill Number 3 Pit in Lanarkshire, Scotland, have taken to throwing away their small change.

They drop coins into a well at the colliery, in fact, and over nine years this novel method has amassed more than £1,000 for the Lanark Spastics Association.

A CAR owned by Mrs. Alice Runciman, Chairman of the Crosby, Bootle, Litherland and District Spastics Society, was smashed up by raiders who broke into the premises of a Bootle firm recently.

It is thought that the intruders, enraged because they found no money in the firm's safe, vented their annoyance in a senseless attack on two cars which were parked in the yard.

THE Malleable Club stands in Norton Road, Norton-on-Tees, and according to the Sports Secretary, Mr. J. R. Lockwood, the members are a very determined group of people. They are quite convinced that when they undertake a task, they will do it better than any other club in the North of England.

Mr. A. N. W. Griffiths, Head of General Appeals at The Spastics Society, heard these challenging remarks when arranging a snooker exhibition at the club. And the result was an attempt to raise more money for spastics by this means than any other Northern club.

The members of the Malleable Club not only talk — they act. Their action resulted in the achievement of their objective, and a cheque for £200 to help spastics. This is certainly the highest sum raised in the North of England from such an event and the enthusiastic men from Teesside, helped by the inspiration of Mr. Lockwood, must be congratulated on this record.



Patricia Fell, a member of the Huddersfield and District Spastics Society, and already holder of the Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award, is pictured being presented with the St. George's medal for outstanding achievement.

Picture by courtesy of the Huddersfield Examiner.

Pope's gift brings happiness to Dorcas

TEENAGER Dorcas Munday was heartbroken when a case containing all her clothes was stolen. The theft was bad enough—but the real tragedy was that the case contained a medallion key ring given to her by the Pope while she was on holiday in Rome.

But now Dorcas, a spastic, of Wellingborough, Northants, is happy again.

The Pope heard of her loss through a priest and ordered that another medallion should be sent to Dorcas. Dorcas was overjoyed when the Pope's gift arrived.

She said: "I shall not use it, for I don't want to risk losing it again. It is my most treasured possession."

A CHEQUE AND A BUS FROM STUDENTS

Kathleen's proud day



Miss Kathleen Butterworth of Leeds, pictured outside Buckingham Palace after receiving her Gold Award certificate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. As reported in last month's Spastics News, Kathleen is an ex-pupil of the Society's Thomas Delarue School. She now works as a Post Office clerk.

GLASGOW Students Charity Fund has made donations to a considerable number of local charities.

Mr. Archie McConnochie, Chairman of the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics, and Mr. Walter Weale, Chairman of the Glasgow Spastics Appeal Committee, were overjoyed to receive not only a cheque for £250, but also a Bedford Utilibus. This was used by the students in their campaign efforts and the vehicle had only travelled a few thousand miles.

Now the bus has been handed over to Hillington Work Centre, Glasgow, to transport spastic workers who live at the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics' Hostel at Westlands, Paisley.

GIFT FROM GROUP FOR RESEARCH

COLWYN BAY and District Group has sent a £100 donation to The Spastics Society and asked that it should be used for research. On behalf of the Executive Council, the Director of the Society, Mr. James Loring, has thanked the Group for its "magnificent gift."

In a letter to the Group, he adds: "We always find it difficult to balance our budget, particularly in the research area. The £100 which you have given us will be a great help."



The stars drop in for a visit

When actress and comedienne Libby Morris was appearing at Bury St. Edmunds

she took the opportunity of dashing over the Suffolk-Essex border to visit Wakes Hall Adult Residential Centre for spastics at Colchester. The Centre is run by The Stars Organisation for Spastics, of which Libby is a member.

She is pictured, above, admiring some of the soft toys which residents are getting ready for the open day at the Centre on July 12th.

Another star who dropped in to see spastics at work

was S.O.S. Chairman Dickie Henderson, who, while appearing at a Swansea theatre took the chance of visiting Longfields Centre, which is run by the Swansea and District Spastics Society. Pictured, below, with him in the workshop are Mrs. W. Paton, Mrs. G. M. Watts, Matron and Mr. H. McKelvie, Work Centre Manager.

Picture of Libby by courtesy of Essex County Standard, and of Dickie by South Wales Evening Post.

£1,000 FROM COUNTRY WALK

Over £1,000 was raised by Chester and District Spastics Association by a sponsored walk which for safety sake was routed through country lanes. About 200 people took part in the 20-mile walk.



Weekend walk to train for mountain climb

A WEEKEND of mountain walking in the Pennines near Edale, Derbyshire, could lead to bigger and better things for a party of about 12 spastics. For they used the weekend as a training session to find out if they will be capable of scaling one of the more ambitious peaks of North Wales later this year.

Test of Ability

The party was led by Dr. Ron. Firman, Vice-Chairman of the Association of '62 Clubs, who lives at Nottingham. "We hope to climb Snowdon or Helvellyn in September if possible," he said. "But before

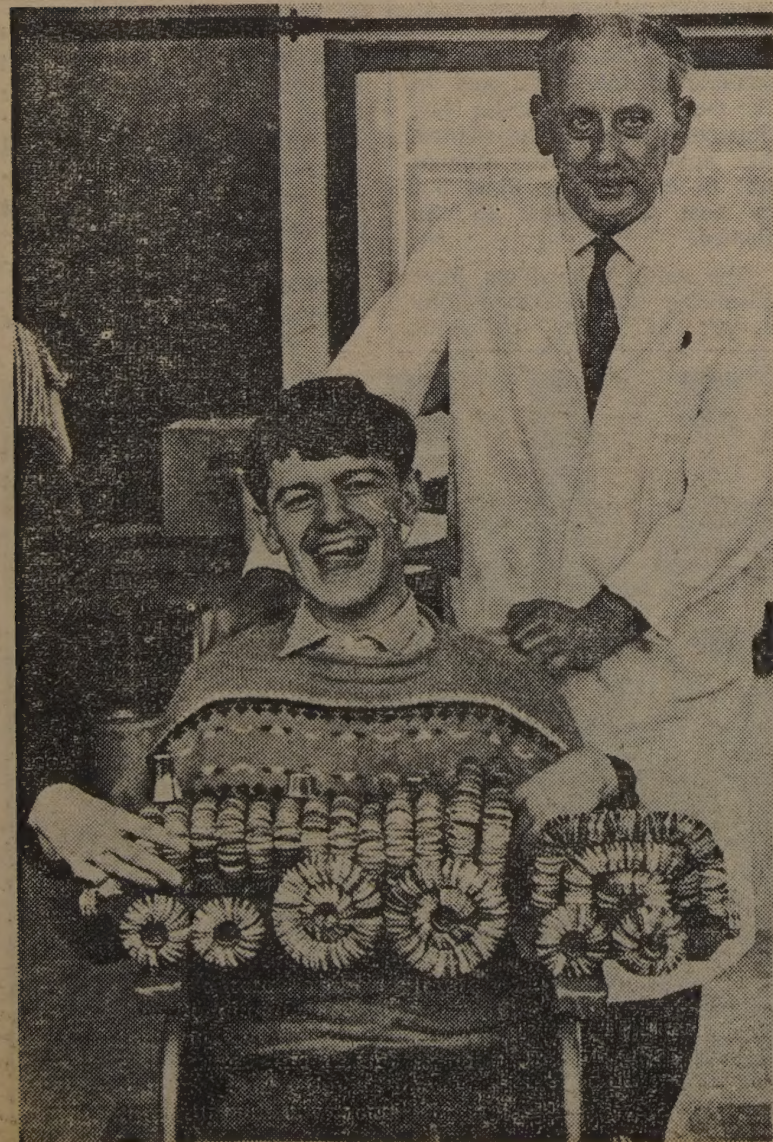
attempting such an ambitious climb we thought we would test our abilities on more gentle slopes.

"The Derbyshire hills enabled us to walk over steep but safe slopes. Many of them were covered with grass or heather, but there were plenty of rocky slopes as well."

The party stayed at a youth hostel at Edale during the weekend. They included: David Branch, Assistant Clubs Officer to The Spastics Society, John Battson, Surlingham, Long Lane, Fradley, Nr. Lichfield, David Beebe, of 11 Nelson Buildings, Hopton

Street, London S.E.1., Nicholas Buck, of 81 Langland Crescent, Stanmore, Middlesex, David Edwards, of 27 Cambridge Road, Bromley, Kent, Christopher Hills, of 147 Abbots Road, Abbots Langley, Watford, Hertfordshire, Miss Susan Hubbard, of 9 Warren Avenue, Stapleford, Nottingham, Tim Martin, of 56 Littleover Lane, Derby, Miss Doreen Nicklin, of 111 Linkfield Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent, Miss Eileen Spink, of Abbots Langley, Watford, Hertfordshire, and Miss Mary Ann Youatt, of Sage Cottage, Somerton, Somerset.

Tony's train is a corker!



MORE than 2,000 bottle tops were used to build this train which is proudly displayed by Tony Brown, one of the residents at Daresbury Hall, near Wakefield, Lancashire. Tony, (pictured with Mr. C. Wilcox, handicrafts instructor at the Centre), threaded most of the bottle tops on wire to construct the train.

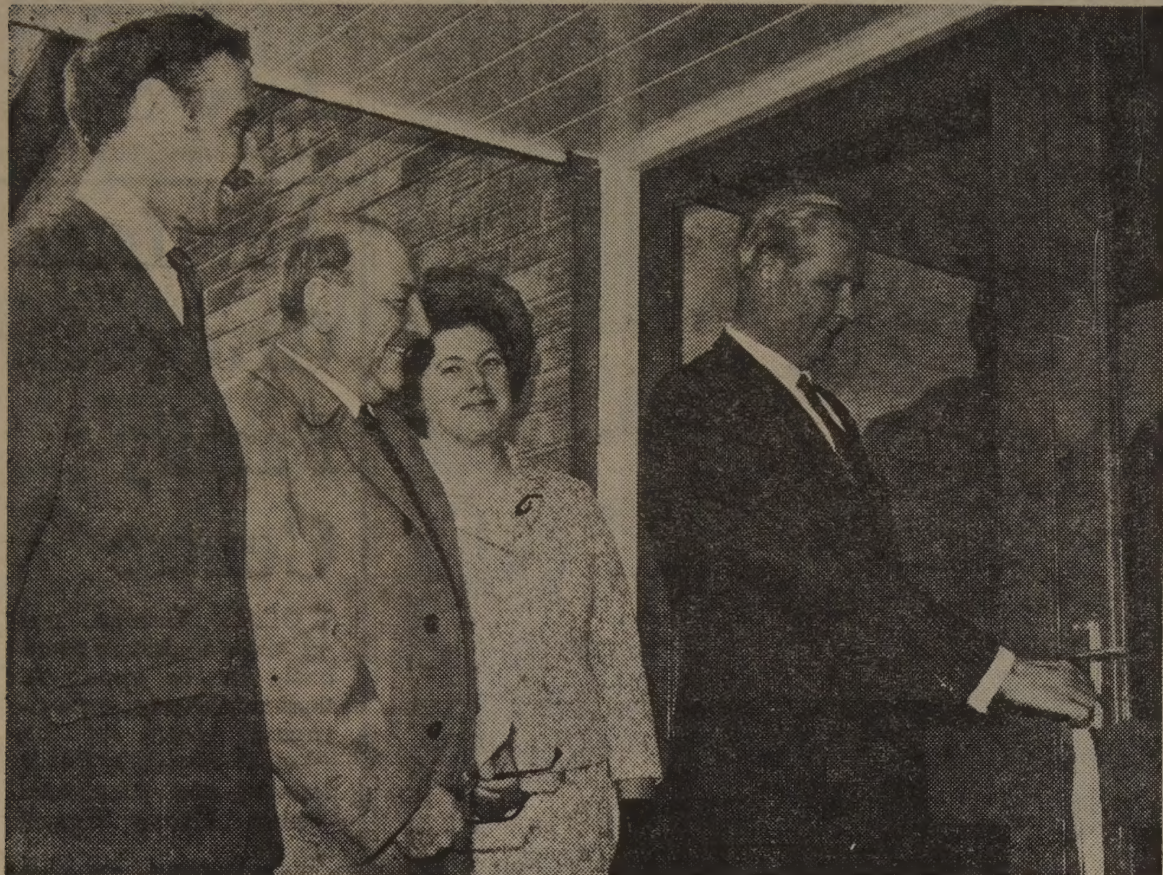
Other residents sorted and punched holes in the bottle tops. The train is a show piece, but the residents also produce toy horses out of bottle tops which they sell for 2s. 6d. each. They make a variety of wooden toys such as barrows and dolls cradles, which are also sold.

Daresbury Hall is an Adult residential Centre run by The Spastics Society. Most of the residents are very severely handicapped, and the construction of the train was a considerable achievement.

Sheffield group win at parade

Sheffield and District Spastics Society won the Sir Stuart Goodwin trophy for the best float entered by youth and charitable organisations at Sheffield's Lord Mayor's Parade.

Pleasant atmosphere the aim at £62,000 Centre



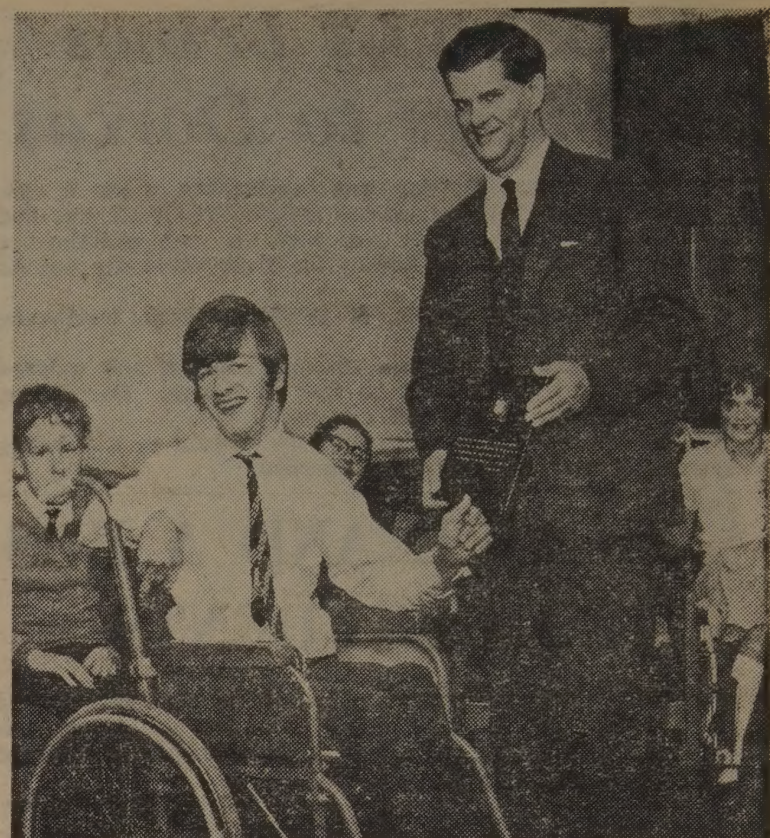
A NEW Residential Centre has been built near Durham for 25 adult spastics working in the area. The Centre is in the middle of a new housing estate on land donated by the builders, William Leech, Ltd., of Newcastle. Together, the builders and architects aimed to provide a pleasant, non-institutional atmosphere.

Many special design features have been incorporated, such as undercover loading space for ambulances, low light switches, and doorways wide enough for wheelchairs.

The Centre cost £62,000 to build. This money was provided by The Spastics Society and its local Groups in the North East of England. Once completed, the building was handed over to Durham County Council, who will be responsible for the annual running costs.

In the picture, left, Mr. D. Hewet, Chairman of the Regional Co-ordinating Committee for The Spastics Society, opens the new home watched by Dr. and Mrs. J. S. Thorp, Chairman of Durham County Spastics Society, (left), and Mr. John Adamson, managing director of William Leech, who handed over the keys.

Picture by courtesy of Northern Echo.



Gift of rare stamp

THE stamp club at the Society's Thomas Delarue School, Tonbridge, Kent, has a very proud possession—a stamp so rare that it is believed to be the only one in existence.

Mr. Robert Williams, of St. Neot's, Huntingdonshire, made

the gift of the Palestinian stamp cancelled with the Bethlehem postmark, in memory of his cousin, Miss Huberta Doo, who was in the care of the Society at Liverpool until she died.

The stamp was accepted on behalf of the school's stamp club by pupil Peter Terry, and in return, club member John Runciman gave Mr. Williams a Delarue School Commemorative Cover, bearing the anniversary hand-stamp used by the school on June 28th, 1969.

Mr. Williams told the pupils that the Palestine stamp had a face value of £9 and its rarity value was in the postmark. He did not think there was another like it.

End of nappy battle with tax victory for Society

"Following representations to Customs and Excise, the maximum side measurement of infants' napkins which are exempt from Purchase Tax has been increased from 27 to 30 inches to meet the demand for napkins for use by young children who are handicapped".

THIS announcement in the trade Press ends a year long battle with Customs and Excise. Before this change of heart, napkins up to 27 inches square were exempt from tax, but those in excess of that size were liable for Purchase Tax at the rate of 13½ per cent.

The Spastics Society purchased large quantities of napkins 30 inches square for resale, at cost, to parents of severely handicapped children who need the large size. And we were faced with this position.—

Parents of handicapped children had to pay tax.

Parents of non-handicapped children did not.

This sort of anomaly, unfortunately not uncommon, had to be fought if we were to achieve our aim of service to spastics.

Research had shown that persistent incontinence is often a sequel to cerebral palsy. In infancy, the need is for napkins 22 inches square, easily supplied quite cheaply through normal trade channels. In adolescence, a square of 30 inches becomes necessary. This large size napkin is difficult to find and costly to buy.

To meet the need, arrangements were made for the central supply of these larger than normal size napkins, and a bulk order was placed with a Lancashire mill for 30in. x 30in. napkins. These were to be sold at cost to Local Groups and parents and, where necessary, to be distributed free of charge by the Society's social workers.

Just as the first orders were being sent out, Customs and Excise ruled that our special size napkins would be subject to Purchase Tax. A first plea pointing out the needs of handicapped children was turned down.

Troubles never come singly. Because of the imposition of Purchase Tax, the trade concentrated on smaller-size napkins and while it was relatively easy to obtain 22in. and 24in. napkins, it was virtually impossible to find anything bigger. As a result, more and more orders came in for our larger size, from other charitable organisations and even Local Authorities.

Something had to be done, and, once more, the Society decided to take up the cudgels. This time we were successful. Exemption from Purchase Tax will have effect from July 1st if we satisfy the following conditions: the napkins must be white; square, or nearly square, with sides measuring not less than 22 inches and not more than 30 inches. And the napkins must be in packets of one or two dozen.

All these conditions can be met. The napkins, specially woven for the Society, will now cost 54/9d. per dozen (plus postage: 4/6d. for one dozen, 7/6d. for two dozen). The saving is 8/6d. per dozen.

SUPPLIES OFFICER

Graham bridges the gaps

SPASTIC Graham Warner has had his first book published. It is called "Bridging the Gap Securely" and in it he tells his own story, and recounts his ideas on what is missing from his life.

The book is not Graham's only literary venture. He has also launched a quarterly magazine, Relay, which he sees as platform for both handicapped and non-handicapped people to exchange ideas and experiences and generally help each other.

Graham, aged 31, who lives with his parents, in Stretford, Manchester, has been a gardener for Urmston parks for 12 years.

Interested in Graham's book (price 5s., plus 6d. postage) and his magazine? Write to him at 52 Cressingham Road, Stretford.



Spastic Terry Freebrey, of Brockworth, Gloucestershire, a member of the Gloucester and District Spastic Association, takes part in a carnival at his home town, and with the posters festooning his bike, does his best to advertise the Group's Spastics Week events. "The courage of Terry is an inspiration to others" says a Group spokesman.

Appeal to thieves to return "invaluable" film records

Old folk respond to talk

WHEN Mr. T. E. Barnes, secretary of the South West Middlesex Spastics Society, appealed to organisations in the area to help the Group with its Spastics Week activities, he received a reply from an Old Folks' Club at Chiswick. The pensioners invited the Group to provide a talk and film at its next meeting.

The old folk were very interested in hearing about the work of the Group and The Spastics Society, and they showed their enthusiasm by organising a collection for funds.

IRREPLACEABLE and invaluable films showing the five year record of the training and treatment of 10 spastic children have been stolen from the Chester Spastics Centre at Blacon.

The films show how the children have developed, and how they responded to treatment. They were stolen from the Centre, together with a projector.

Chester detectives are investigating the theft, and in the meantime, Mrs. Stella Hay, Superintendent of the Centre, has appealed to the thieves not to destroy the films but to post them back to the Centre.

She said: "The films have absolutely no value to anyone except us. They represent

five years from these children's lives, and contain records of training and treatment techniques which could well be of value in the treatment of future cases."

Staff from The Spastics Society's 11 hostels in England and Wales are pictured in the gardens opposite the Family Services and Assessment Centre at Fitzroy Square, London, during a break in a two-day Conference at the Centre. The Conference was held to exchange views and discuss mutual problems.



John's world is captured by the camera

PHOTOGRAPHERS seldom turn their lenses towards the lives of the subnormal. However, Margaret Gathercole and Nick Hedges are exceptions. An exhibition of photographs called "A World of His Own" held by them in London featured the

life of a 21-year-old mentally handicapped boy. Two of the photographs are shown here.

Margaret, 27, who is an artist has a special interest in the boy,

John, for he is her brother. They are pictured together in the large photograph.

Now the exhibition is being repeated at Princess Christian Hospital,

Hildenborough, near Tonbridge, Kent, where John lives. "A World of His Own" will be shown at the Hospital's Open Day on July 18th.

Margaret wrote an introduction to the exhibition—extracts are printed below—which details John's life, his likes and dislikes, his habits and his rituals. She says:

"Apart from weekend visits, John's life is uneventful. He is secure and happy. His life is a routine, but into this passive existence he has built his own pattern of recurrent events. These have assumed a great significance to him. The regularity of these events give him great joy, and probably security.

"For long periods, John remains totally impassive. He is completely detached, impenetrable as if waiting for some recognisable signal to come to the surface. Then something will happen, some memory will come to him (a car ride with his father) or some future event be anticipated (a radio programme), and a secret smile appears, his body trembles and vibrates with joy, he becomes possessed with happiness. Seconds later he has resumed his impenetrable gaze.

Human warmth

"It is hard work to penetrate his world. He will often dismiss an attempt to reach him with a curt 'yes' or 'no' and get back to the more serious business of watching and listening. He does share considerable human warmth with his father, sister, and special friends at home. Always it is on his terms, contained within the memory of a past event, or in celebration of an aspect of his special world.

"These photographs are not intended to be exceptional graphic images. What we hope they illuminate is the special solitary world of John Gathercole. And perhaps in some way they will balance the dark picture of mental institutions which has received so much publicity in recent months."



A little girl lost

"SUSIE" doll collecting boxes are now part of the furniture of our shopping streets, providing an easy, accessible way for the generous to donate money to help spastics. But because "Susie" dolls are so accessible, they can be vulnerable . . .

The following news item appeared in the Ilford Recorder under the headline "Sad Story of the Spastics' Friend", and it is typical of the sympathetic treatment which newspapers give to incidents of this kind:

"A little girl who raised money for spastics was stolen last week.

She had stood outside a shop in Broadway-market, Ilford, come rain, come shine, come snow.

She always had a smile on her face, a collecting box in her hands and calipers on her legs.

There was quite a lot of money in the "girl's" box but how much nobody really knows . . . only the thieves who took her. The spastics will never know.

She was stolen some time during the day. But no one saw her go or who took her.

Police don't think she will be seen again."



About that Minister for the Handicapped

I HAVE been very interested to read of the suggestion by Mr. James Loring, the Director of the Society, that the Government should appoint a Minister for the Handicapped. What a splendid ideal!

As the mother of a spastic I would like to feel that there was one person interested in us and our problems instead of the bewildering collection of Government departments.

I believe that a committee is better than a department, two people are better than a committee, and one head is better than two!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

But let the person appointed — if the Minister idea ever gets off the ground — have a deep feeling in his heart for the people he could help so much. Perhaps the appointment could only be tackled properly by a woman?

Mrs. P.L. Lancs.

AS one of Mrs. Parker's ex-trainees in Stockport, I was very pleased to see in "Spastics News" that she has been awarded the M.B.E.

Since my training in Stockport in 1962-63 I have met others who have trained under Mrs. Parker at Chester and Lancaster. I am sure that I can speak for all of them when I say that I will always remember my time spent with her with gratitude.

Christine Chisholm, Thursley Road, Elstead, Godalming, Surrey.

The fun of sailing

MR. P. West's letter in a recent issue of Spastics News regarding the courageous new venture designed to offer some of the pleasures of "messing about in boats" to physically handicapped people, is really lacking in comprehension of the whole concept of "Sparkle."

S.P.A.R.K.S., the group of sportsmen responsible, have enthusiastically listened to and followed constructive criticism given by disabled people, and those professionally concerned with disablement, in creating "Sparkle." They are among the country's leading sailors. At the Boat Show, every day and all day, members of S.P.A.R.K.S.,

all of them extremely busy people with their own professions and commitments, worked unstintingly in their endeavour to open up this difficult medium for physically handicapped people to enjoy. There were many enthusiastic comments made by disabled visitors who were delighted at the prospects offered by "Sparkle." Their suggestions have been recorded and are being incorporated in the boat's final fitting out.

People with a variety of disabilities will be able to participate in some activity concerned with boats and sailing in their own ship. To do such things in some serenity, and peace from crowds, is something that hitherto most physically handicapped have not been able to enjoy. Comparison with a trip on the Woolwich Ferry is just not possible.

Practical differences include the freedom of move-

ment whether chair bound or not. The ability to go into the galley and brew the tea; or reach an easily accessible toilet without fuss, discomfort and embarrassment.

Active sailing is possible, adjusted to the sailor's interest and physical ability. Details of an Autopilot allowing severely disabled crew members to steer under the direction of the skipper were in the leaflet.

The wheel is purposely placed in a position accessible only to the trained skipper to ensure the safety of those on board. It is raised so he may have a complete overall view.

Referring to other particular points: The ramp, especially provided for the Boat Show, was designed to drop down on one of the gangways, and was constantly in use.

The reference to "cripples" and "patients," in a leaflet giving technical data was a misunderstanding made with best intentions, and therefore I hope, tolerated good humouredly by any physically handicapped reader. The point was made known and rectified as soon as possible. Wendy Francis, M.C.S.P., Holiday Officer, Central Council for the Disabled.

Can you help Susan?

JUST a short letter to ask if you could possibly help me. I work with children in the Pictor House, Sale, Centre for Spastics.

But I would like to make friends with some handicapped people of my own age, which is 15, either on a pen friend

basis or visit basis. Preferably I would like to make friends with a young male spastic who enjoys sports, especially swimming and the countryside. Miss Susan Wogan, 41, Hillcroft Road, Oldfieldbrow, Altrincham, Cheshire.

Spastics Week July 5-11

Theatre shop pays for holidays

HOLIDAYS for local spastics have been provided by the Central Surrey Spastics Group from part of the proceeds of its charity shop in the foyer of the old Leatherhead, Surrey, theatre which closed a year ago.

The shop was opened last November and so far nearly £500 has been raised.

Sainsbury's, who own the property, are letting the Group use the theatre for the shop until they need the building for redevelopment.

Steamed up for another success

LINCOLN and District Spastics Society is confident that last year's record attendance of 18,500 will be beaten at this year's annual Steam Spectacular Rally at Caenby Corner, on August 15 and 16.

The rally has become one of the most popular events of the year in Lincolnshire, and a big fundraiser for local spastics.

With two months still to go, an entry of 25 veteran steam engines and 10 fairground organs had been attracted.

In addition, the Society's show committee has arranged an impressive line-up of attractions—under cover in case of bad weather. These include a circus and a accident prevention display by Lincolnshire police. There will also be a big funfair.

Now it's a sponsored clean-up campaign

AFTER sponsored walks, cycle rides, slims, swims, and the rest, comes a new idea from Glasgow. A sponsored clean-up campaign.

Ninety boys and girls from two Glasgow schools went to the Isle of Arran in June to clear scrub on the National Trust of Scotland's Brodick Castle Estate, and to clear litter and broken glass on Goat Fell.

The youngsters were clearing up as part of the European Conservation effort, but they also persuaded their classmates to sponsor them at an hourly rate.

Proceeds will be used to help spastics and the mentally handicapped.

Vandals stop play for spastic children

Big names at Croydon Horse Show

BEATRICE WELLES, 15-year-old daughter of Orson Welles, and Judy Brady, wife of disc jockey Pete Brady, were due to compete at the Croydon and District Spastics Society's Seventh Annual Horse Show and Gymkhana, at Great Bookham, Surrey, on Sunday.

Last year Beatrice won the Open Jumping event at the Show.

Judy's husband officially opened the Show.

Said Mrs. Margot Renny, one of the organisers of the Show: "The Croydon and District Spastics Society has to raise £8,000 each year to maintain its Children's Centre and Work Centre. In addition it needs £6,000 to complete the cost of a new extension to the Work Centre."

Picture below: Beatrice Welles and "Brandy."

VANDALS have struck at the Moor Park Spastics Day Centre, Preston, Lancashire, and now the supervisor Mrs. Frances Lawrenson, has appealed to local parents to stop their children from doing further damage.

One of the main problems is that milk bottles are continually being smashed at the front gate and on the grass verge at the Centre.

Says Mrs. Lawrenson: "Because they are unable to walk, crawling and rolling on the grass on a fine sunny day is a sheer delight for the spastic children. Now we daren't let them do this because of the fine splinters of glass lying hidden."

"Perhaps the culprits, who are able to run about and climb locked gates, will think about this. Perhaps their parents will too. I don't entirely blame the children, if they are not taught to respect

other people's property, and parents surely know where their children play."

Because of the danger from the broken bottles, the children have had to be kept indoors or taken to a public park to play.

As well as the broken milk bottles hazard, the Centre has had windows broken, gate bars forced, and wire fencing damaged during the last 18 months.

Now people living in nearby houses keep a look-out for vandals in the evenings and at weekends.

Leader of Safari

MR. George Keith of Aberdeen, president of the Aberdeen Adult Spastics Club, has been appointed chairman of the Scottish Spastics Association Fostering Adult Relationship and Integration. The Association is better known as the Scottish SAFARI.

He was chosen at a civic reception at Motherwell to mark the third annual conference of SAFARI, the theme of which was pensions and employment for the disabled.

Wotalotigot!



Angela Layton, three-year-old daughter of the landlord of the Mill House Hotel, Hartlepool, measures a pile of pennies, and finds it is bigger than she is. When the pile was knocked down, over £46 was sent to the Teesside Spastics Society, and a yard of ale contest on pushover night raised another £9 for the fund.

Picture by courtesy of the Northern Daily Mail, Hartlepool.

Car trio ready for endurance record attempt

ON Sunday, July 5th, the first day of Spastics Week, three motorists—all of them spastics—will set out from London on a 2,200 mile journey which could win them a place in the "Guinness Book of Records." They will attempt to set up an endurance record for driving round the perimeter of England and Wales.

So far no-one has made a successful attempt at this record. "The Guinness Book of Records" has agreed to include the event provided that it is carried out satisfactorily.

The three drivers are all taking part on behalf of The Association of '62 Clubs — social clubs run by spastics for spastics. They are David Branch, Assistant Clubs Officer at The Spastics Society; Roger Holt, Chairman of the London '62 Club; and Owen Parry,

Chairman of the Watford '62 Club. Owen is normally confined to a wheelchair, which he will carry in the car during the drive.

"We expect the record attempt to take us five days," said David Branch. "However speed is irrelevant—the important thing is to keep going."

"We shall each take turns at driving, navigating and sleeping."

The record attempt will be made in a Ford Zodiac Automatic Estate car, being loaned by the Ford Motor Company. Shell-Mex and B.P. Ltd. have agreed to meet fuel costs.

Route for the drive reads like a guide book—not that the trio will have much time to look at the scenery—but

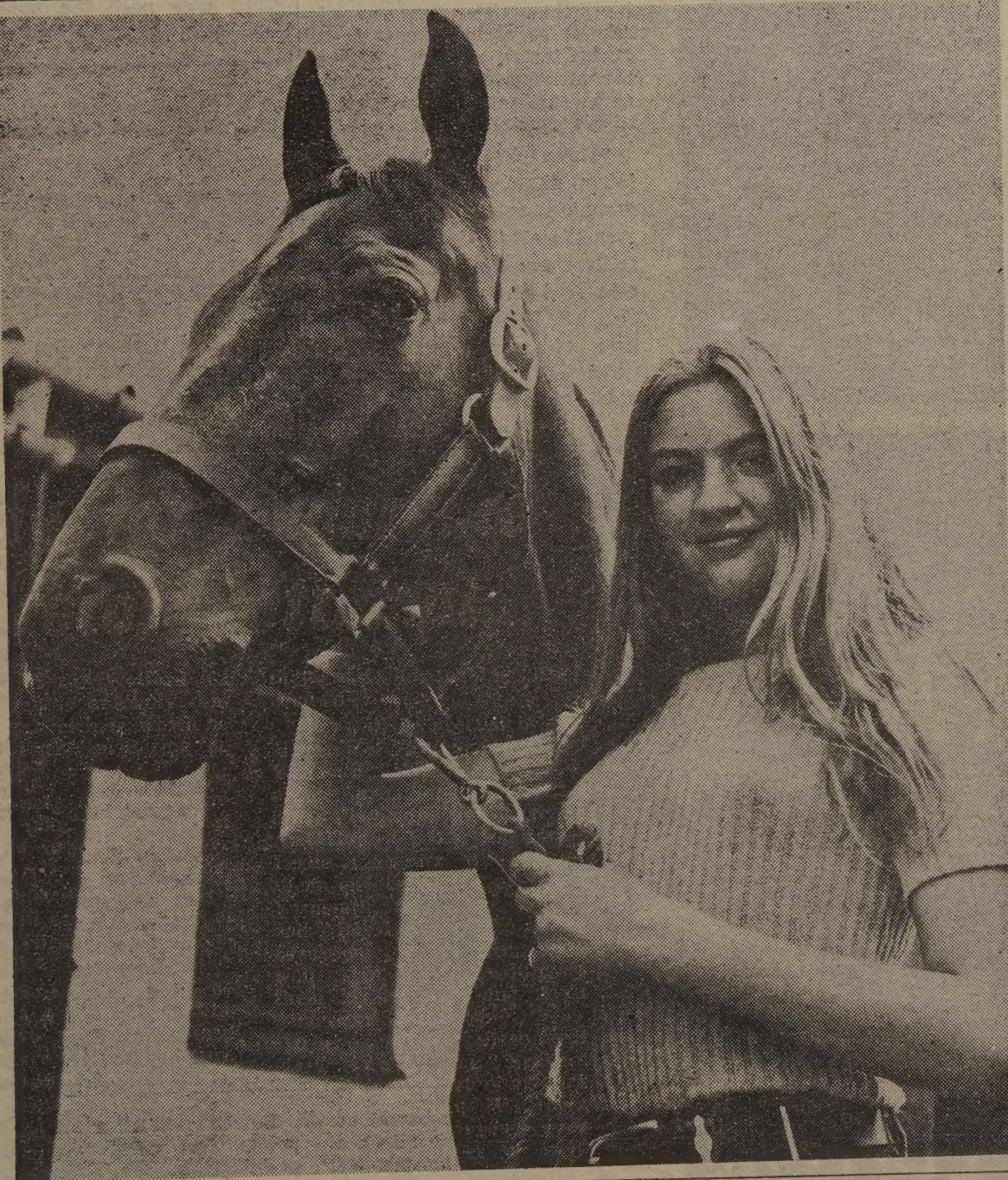
they will be making brief goodwill stops.

They will be greeted by the Mayors of Southend, Great Yarmouth, Scarborough, Middlesbrough, Sunderland, Cardiff, Plymouth and Exeter. And former S.O.S. Chairman, Leslie Crowther will send them on their way at Great Yarmouth, and Joan Turner and Albie Keen will be at the Blackpool stop to wish them well. Alan Melville will meet them at Brighton, and Avril Angers at Southampton.

The endurance drive will start from The Spastics Society's headquarters at Park Crescent, London, W.1., and the trio will be wished good luck by a number of well-known personalities, including Christine Holmes and Stephanie Voss.

One of the highlights of the drive will be Bristol where the drivers will visit the headquarters of Regional Pool Promotions Ltd., to meet the directors and staff and a number of personalities, including Don Moss, the disc jockey.

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Such a cool kind thought

MRS. L. Stockdale, Chairman of Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics Society, and the staff at Pictor House, the Society's Centre for spastic children at Sale, were delighted to receive this letter. It tells its own story.

Here it is — just as it was written by an obviously very young well-wisher.

Dear Mrs. Stockdale,

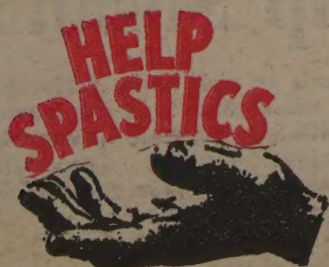
My name is Andrew Mottershead and me and my sister Donna and my friend Anthony Peckett would like you to have this money to

buy the children some ice lollies when it is hot. We all did a show and my friend Leslie and Alana Thomson and Helen Foster we got 6/9 but I did some shopping for mummy and she gave me some more lots of love and kisses from Andrew and Donna.

He felt terrible after "despicable" theft

A MAN who stole one of The Spastics Society's collecting dolls from outside a public house in Camden High Street, N.W.1., was told by the magistrate at Clerkenwell Court: "To steal is bad enough. But this was thoroughly mean and despicable."

The man, who was fined £30 told the court: "I am feeling terrible about doing such a thing."



SPASTICS WEEK JULY 5-11